Orange Bytes

Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

NOCCC MEETINGS - January 5

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

presented by Cathy Margolin

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
MAIN MEETING
ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

presented by Jim Morrison

See Page 4 for details

8:30 a.m.
Visual Programming I .... *Science 109*
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.
Autocad .... *Wilkinson 111*
Linux for Desktop Users .... *Wilkinson 210*
Desktop applications under Linux
Visual Programming II .... *Science 109*
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners
Windows .... *Science 111*
Windows Tips, Tricks, Q&A

9:30 a.m.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES ....*Irvine Hall*
See box above
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Gaming PC & Mac .... *Science 203*
Mac/PC gaming SIG newly forming. Bring your friends! :-)
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 306*
Intermediate Linux .... *Wilkinson 210*
Linux for administrators or programmers

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 210*
Vendors .... *Science 127*

Visual Programming III
Visual Programming III .... *Science 109*
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.
Computer Security .... *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts .... *Wilkinson 210*
Macintosh .... *Wilkinson 221*
Office Suites .... *Science 111*
PC Q & A ....*Irvine Hall*
Jim Sanders • Most questions answered, some problems solved, assorted demos done
Understanding Operating Systems ..... *Wilkinson 111*
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV .... *Science 109*
Office program development using VB

12:00 Noon
PIG SIG .... *Argyros Hall Cafeteria*
A lunch get together and talk. See SIG Reports

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall
See box above

2:30 p.m.
Genealogy ....*Irvine Hall*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
OS/2 News and Installation .... *Science 203*
Palm User Group .... *Science 211*

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

Future Meetings
Feb 2 • Mar 2

• Box 3616 Orange CA 92857 • Founded April 1976 •

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The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

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VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!!!

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HELP WANTED
User Group Web Page Reporter
To check other User Group's web pages for articles that could be reprinted in the *Orange Bytes*

Founded
April
1976

North Orange County Computer Club

President's Message

At the last meeting, several members approached me as to what happened with the phone company which I reported in my message last month.. Well, it got more frustrating. The phone bill said that it would be paid automatically. When it wasn't, I called the business office. They took the checking account information and then debited my account for the bill. I checked my account three days later and the phone company had debited my account. I thought everything's paid, right? WRONG!!! Four days later, I received a past due notice for my account. I called the phone company. Their explanation was this: Our phone bills are keyed to a three digit-account number which appears on the top of the bill after your phone number. When my phone number was disconnected and reconnected, the computer system assigned a new account number and transferred the balance from the old account to the new account. In its infinite wisdom, the phone company computer system figured out I was trying to pay a disconnected phone bill so it had issued a refund check. Meanwhile the new account is PAST DUE, with a $50.00 reconnection charge! I was advised by the phone company rep to wait for the refund check, put it back in the mail and everything should be ok. I did this. Now my account has a credit balance according to the touch-tone billing inquiry system. I can't wait to get the bill.

Anyway, back to NOCCC stuff. Our meeting attendance has been a little low during the last few months. The board discussed this at some length at the last meeting. We're not sure why. If you have any ideas for speakers or how we can increase attendance, please let me know. Low attendance does make it harder to get speakers for the meeting.

Meanwhile, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Alan Pearlman
pearlmanA@aol.com
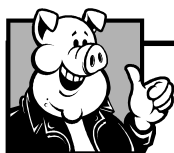
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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

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

Membership Benefits

As a valued member, you receive discounts and offers, as part of the entire benefit of belonging. (Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies and products but make these offers as a service to our members). If you have suggestions for items for this column, e-mail them to **Cathy Grammer-Margolin** *at:* cgmargolin@pobox.com.

Free Exhibits Pass to Comdex—Register online at: www.comdex.com/register and use the priority code # UCCUSS, Coupon Code #365 to get the free exhibits pass to Comdex in Las Vegas November 16-21.

 New Fast Defragmentation Program - VOPT XP—VOPT XP is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, ME, 2000, and XP. By Golden Bow software (www.goldenbow.com). Download a free 30-day trial to see how fast it will defrag your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the user group discount of $30 or $10 off the $40 price.

Orange Bytes on PDF earlier in the month! Members ONLY - Watch your e-mail every month for the Password to get the award-winning Orange Bytes much earlier in the month via PDF file on the www.noccc.org website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes (membership@noccc.org) so you can get the jump on all the great reviews and articles

PowerQuest- New Partition Magic 8
• PartitionMagic v8 (List $69.95) $35.00
• Drive Image v5 (List $69.95) Full System Backup Utility
    including DataKeeper $35.00

http://www.ugr.com/order/ with group code UGNOVNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

Redmond Technology Press—20% discount to User Groups. To receive the discount, user group members need only to order directly from the Redmond Technology Press web site at www.redtechpress.com and identify themselves as a user group member when they give their name (for example, John Doe, CUG member).

NewRiders Book Discounts—Please visit www.newriders.com and check out our Promotions section. You can see examples there of some of the UG discounts we have set up for our partners.

Microsoft Press Savings—Save 20% off Microsoft Press books. Visit http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/offers/mspress/ and use the code: MCPC, to get your 20% discount. Call 1-800-MS-PRESS to order.

O'Reilly Books at 20% off. Include code: DSUG. Order via phone: 1-800-998-9938, email: order@oreilly.com or online at www.oreilly.com

AOL, Earthlink and Compuserve—If you are a member of AARP, you can get up to 10-20% off each month. Visit AARP at http://www.aarp.org/benefits-computers/ ∎

December Board Meeting Minutes

NOCCC

Details are available in the Printed Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

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January 5th Meeting Preview

At 9:30, Cathy Margolin will present the new version of Adobe Photoshop Elements 2, the consumer version of Photoshop for the people who like wizards.

At 1 pm, Jim Morrison on the newest verions of Adobe Photoshop 7 showing us what it can do, and how to do it!

Jim teaches Photoshop at a local college, and is one of our members!

There will be some good raffle prizes! Including MS Windows XP Pro and Digital Image Pro Ver. 7

Consignment Table

1. The consignment table is for members only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help your Club at the same time.

2. The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.

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

4. Also, fill out the USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone Number. and a complete list of items and their selling prices.

5. All items and/or money may be picked up by the owner at any time, but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.

6. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 PM, will become the property of NOCCC and will he subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.
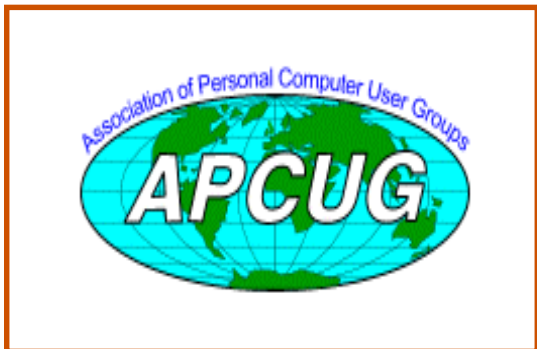
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COMDEX FALL 2002

By O. T. Stoll NOCCC ot @stollcomputers.com

The floor at COMDEX was as crowded as ever. There were half as many vendors, (a little over 1000), and half as many visitors, (Key3Media Group expected 125,000), and less that half as much area so it was still a crowded atmosphere. The big rumors were not of the new hardware or technology but were that Key3Media was going to file for bankruptcy and there may not be a COMDEX 2003. If you go to their web site, you will see that they are selling spaces for it. If COMDEX FALL 2003 goes away, I wonder what will happen to the 20 other odd COMDEXs around the world. The other big rumor was that if Key3Media fails, the owner of the Sands Convention Center, (who put on the early shows and sold it to SoftBank for about $800,000,000), would buy it back for $80,000,000 and again produce it. Las Vegas needs COMDEX and the 100,000 or so visitors. As usual, Microsoft's Bill Gates gave the Keynote kickoff speech which is really a media event is with every media medium, you can think of, a part of his presentation. This is a yearly event for him, starting way back with his father running the slide projector for him. In the past years, Linux had many exhibitors and many programs. They used to take up the whole LV Hilton Convention Center. This year, I did not see one exhibitor of Linux products. They may have been some but, if so, they were not easy to find.

Security was very tight last year. No one could carry in bags and one company was selling suits with many web pockets where you could store items but they were still in view. It was quite a hassle last year to go in the show, fill up a bag, go out and then you could not come back in with the bag and there were no place to store the bags. This year, it was business as usual. You could take bags in and out at any time.
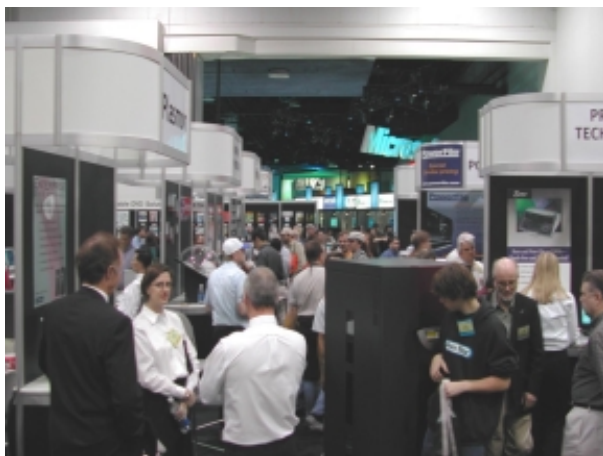
There were a number of Pavilions. A pavilion, by definition, is an area with a number of exhibitors with something in common, showing off their wares. The biggest, Pavilion, was Microsoft with a large number of exhibitors showcasing the latest products, services and solution utilizing Microsoft products and technologies. I think Bangladesh was the smallest with the Bangladesh Export Promotion Board being the only exhibitor. The next biggest was China with over thirty exhibitors.

I think that PDAs were the big item in the show this year. A number of exhibitors from China, Korea and all over seem to have them for show this year. HandSpring's PDAs were well exhibited and a number of new ones using MS windows were on display at the Microsoft Pavilion.

This year seemed to be the hardware year with a lot more hardware and a lot less software. One of the hardware items I liked was the VerticalMouse. If you are interested, you can see it at www.evoluent.biz

<http://www.evoluent.biz/>.

One of the software programs I liked was call 3D-Album. You can create TV-Quality 3d Photo Shows with music, text and voiceover. Others I liked were from REALLUSION. They were Crazy Talk for creating animated talking characters from any digital still image; and, it'sMe which allows you to create full-motion 3D from a single photo.

Now for some of the exhibitors and their products: TechSmith was there with their latest updates of Snagit and Camtasia Studio. Snagit is a program I use a lot. You can capture all or part of your monitor screen. Then you can modify it, paste it into any other application, store it and share it. See more on Snagit and Camtasia Studio at www.techsmith.com <http://www.techsmith.com/>.

Six Degrees by Creo allows you to keep track of important files, track projects, customers, client and related email threads. More at www.creo.com/sixdegrees <http://www.creo.com/sixdegrees>. One of the Taiwan companies showed a number of

products including a mouse that operates off the table and a wireless RF track mouse. Looks like it would be great for those who like to lay back and use the mouse with out wires or a table. www.3g-green-green-globe.com <http://www.3g-green-green-globe.com/>.

Another Taiwan company that specializes in manufacturing PC-related products is A-Four Tech Co. Ltd. They shipped 24,000 mice in 2001 and also make anti-RSI health keyboards. www.a4tech.com <http://www.a4tech.com/>.

The Acecad Enterprise Co. of Taiwan has factories in China making their specialty, tablet/digitizer/pen-input devices. They also make PC cameras and mouse products. www.acecad.com.tw <http://www.acecad.com.tw/>.

Active Cool from Israeli has developed a generic solid-state cooling system for computer processors. They say the effect is dramatic, analogous to the difference between a fan and air conditioning. www.activecool.com <http://www.activecool.com/>.

Alphpachem Co., Ltd. Of Korea, showed off their refill ink they manufactured by themselves with their own technology. It was interesting. www.inkmate.co.kr <http://www.inkmate.co.kr/>. Many exhibitors were showing the latest and greatest portable USB hard drives and other big memory in little packages. One was Andus Technologies with their FlashDrive USB mobile storage solutions, MP3 players, USB mini hubs and Compact Flash media. www.andustech.com <http://www.andustech.com/>.

Some Principles of Computer Troubleshooting

Timothy Everingham NOCCC   teveringham@acm.org

At sometime you will have something go wrong with your computer and have to troubleshoot it. Here are some basic principles that are useful in doing so.

Know Your Computer

One of the most helpful things is to know how things operate when they are working on your computer. When something is not working there may be clues to what the problem is that you will not recognize as clues unless you know how your computer works under normal conditions. This also means you need to know what hardware and software is installed in your computer. Of course you need to have done this before your computer starts to have problems.

Deduction, My Dear Watson

The deductive process is a key to troubleshooting. Assemble the evidence and other things you know about the problem along with what you know about your computer and possibly its interaction with the outside world. With this knowledge you can narrow down the probable cause(s) of your problem to a few likely suspects. Then you can start testing to see narrow down the list of suspects even further. Sherlock Homes told Dr. Watson that his deductive process eliminates the possibilities so that eventually only one remains, that no mater how improbable it is, must be the truth. Most computer problems fall within the realms of common experience, but computers are known to stretch those realms. Remember the first computer bug was a moth that shorted out a component in the first electronic computer.

No Part of Your Computer Is an Island

A computer is a system of components of hardware and software that work together. That means when a part of your computer is having problems it may not be something directly related to the problem. You may have installed a financial management program, but now your photo editing program does not work. They seem as if they do not have anything to do with each other, but during the installation a shared component or system setting may have been modified or replaced by the financial management program. You install a new card in your computer and now another card or piece of hardware will not work. This may mean they are trying to share the same interrupt or memory address. Your computer may be experiencing more crashes and freezes than normal, which may not be a software issue at all but an indication one of you RAM chips or power supply is fading and on the verge of failure. Having knowledge of how different components of your computer interact is helpful.

Do Not Get Over Your Head

There are those who have years of experience and formal computer training so we have a better understanding how to approach solving computer problems. Not everyone is so fortunate. People are at different levels of computer knowledge, so they have different levels of computer problems that they can effectively tackle. In the world of the computer professionals there is the term "having just enough knowledge to be dangerous". It is in reference to people who have some knowledge of computers, but not extensive knowledge, and believe they have enough knowledge to tackle problems that are way above them. These people have a tendency to eventually severely mess up theirs or someone else's system and sometimes an entire company. So when you

get into an area that you are not familiar with either increase your own knowledge or get help. To increase you own knowledge many companies have support areas on their websites that are searchable by keywords, such as the symptoms of your problem. Books are also good.

In Community There Is Strength

Being part of a community of computer users can help to overcome your lack of computer knowledge. Other people have probably had the same problem you have. However, if you are not in such a community it can be hard to find some who has had your particular problem. For most people such a community can be best found in a computer user group. In a computer user group people support each other. By becoming part of a community of computer users you will be able to take part of this sharing of knowledge and helping each other to solve problems. In fact, in these groups there are some people who are very good at trouble shooting computers and especially like helping out others with their problems. Having a community like this at your disposal can save you a lot of time and money when your computer is having problems.

Not Only Backup Your Computer, But Have A Backup Computer

It has probably been drummed into your head to back up the hard drives on your computer, especially the data files. If you have not done it already; backup anything critical on your computer before you start changing things on your computer in the troubleshooting process, especially data files. However, what generally has not been said is that you should have a backup computer. The hardware and software vendors talk about all the wonderful support features they have on their websites, but it does not help at all if your computer can not get to the Internet. You cannot get to that new driver or software patch which could solve your problem. Also in those circumstances you cannot use email, chat, or instant messaging to get help from your friends and colleagues. Additionally if your computer goes down a moment that having access to a working computer is critical you are sunk. That is why unlike many other people I do not sell or give away my old computer when I upgrade. I keep it as a backup computer. My backup computer is only a Pentium II, but it will provide the basic functions of email, Internet access, and word processing I need while I get my primary computer running again. I can use it go to those support websites to help me fix my primary computer. So keep a backup computer. Check every once in a while to see if it runs and possibly update its email address book (you will want to have the email address of those you would want to contact during a period where your primary computer is down, and you may not be able to get it off your primary computer).

Troubleshooting is a Large Subject

I have given some basic principles of troubleshooting, but it is far from totally covering the subject. Take advantage of Internet sites and books and get involved in a community of computer users. By doing so you will be better equipped to troubleshoot your computer.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham

Consulting in Azusa, California. Further information can be found at http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham

Shopping Tips for Internet Shopaholics

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Previously, I described my experience spending over $150 to save about $4 on vitamins I bought on the Internet. This column takes care of the other side of the story: Tips on tackling the problems of Internet buying.

Fighting the Free Syndrome

How much do you make an hour? If you're clocking more than, say, $5 an hour, don't waste your time hunting for discounts that come and go. The worst ones to try finding are free shipping or $10 off with your first order. A better strategy? If you bump into an offer from Half.com, say, and you're in the market for a bunch of used books, it's a slam-dunk. Otherwise, don't bother tracking them down.

Factor in Shipping

Paying attention to shipping costs may seem obvious, but there are variables to consider. You might think you'll save on shipping by choosing a site that charges a flat fee for shipping no matter how many items you purchase. That's likely true unless the site's products are inflated to cover the shipping costs. With some items—vitamins, for instance—that's not such a big deal as most sites charge a flat $4.95 for standard shipping. (One exception, though, is AdvanceRX; they charge a flat fee of $3 for the entire order, and the product pricing is lower than other drug sites.)

Listen to Users

The wealth of opinions on the Net is overwhelming and you need to tap into it before making any major purchase. There are two spots I listen in on, are useful in its own way. First try the newsgroups and do it using the Google.com search engine. When I was interested in a camcorder, I typed "Panasonic Camcorder" into the Google search field and clicked on Groups. Goggle will provide a list of groups that contain the two words. It's a little daunting from here because you'll face at least 10 groups. Choose the one that's closest to your search. For instance, "Humanities" (Fine art, literature, philosophy) and "Misc" (Employment, health) won't fit while "Comp" (Hardware, software, consumer info) sure will.

You'll then see a dozen or more sub-groups belonging to Comp, each with a green bar showing the likely hits in the groups. Type "Panasonic Camcorder" into the field again and choose "Search only in comp."

The dilemma, as you'll soon find out, is there's a lot to sort through in order to find the recommendations and discussion you're looking to read.

☞

The other spot I really like is Epinions.com. It's filled with people like us providing their observations and experiences with products. Don't be put off by thinking these are just willy-nilly opinions. Granted, some are, but most people are careful and thorough in their reports, few seem to have an ulterior motive, and those that do are easy to spot.

Try Epionions by typing, "Choosing an Air Conditioner" into the search field. Scroll down to "Member Advice" and you'll get a sense of what Epionions offers. Better, search for an item you're very familiar with and see what others have to say.

Make those Comparisons

You're crazy if you shop on the Internet without using a price comparison site. There are many available, and here's a sampling:

** Mysimon.com

** Dealtime.com

** Pricingcentral.com

** Bizrate.com

** Smartshop.com

** BuyBuddy.com

If you're wondering which sites I use regularly, take a gander at some of my favorites:

** Pricescan.com: A neat site with an assortment of ways to search for products and spots to purchase the item. The site does an exemplary job at digging up pricing for a myriad of products including for books, computers, office equipment, home and garden, and other categories.

** DestinationRX.com: Does a remarkable job at neatly displaying a grid with product, vendor, price, estimated shipping, and total cost. Great: Sorting by column cost or price is easy, and getting details about the vendor is a click away. Not so hot: "Total Cost field" doesn't take into account price per unit, so comparing a bottle of 100 60milligram vitamins with the same bottle of 100mg vitamins isn't accurate.

Canada.rx: A member of another user group told me about Canada.rx. She said, "I thought you might be interested in this solution for prescription drugs. A friend is diabetic and has who knows what else. His doctor faxes his prescriptions and he receives a package a few days later with no hassle from the post office. (His only real difficulty lay in convincing his doctor to send the fax and that only had to be done once.) His credit card is charged approximately one-third the price he'd pay locally. I asked him for the URL and this is his response:

'It's CanadaRx. No www, no .com, nothing but CanadaRx. They keep changing the entry screens, making it sometimes difficult to find the screen one wants. But it's all there. All

that's needed in patience. Persistence helps some too.'"

I checked and the prices really are substantial lower than most discount pharmacies.

** Pricewatch.com: This site has been around the longest and provides a fast, convenient way to find the best prices on computing hardware.

** Addall.com: Think Amazon has the best prices in town? Nope. Half.com, BooksAMillion.com, and others often beat Amazon. The saving are enough that it makes using Addall.com a must every time you shop for books.

** PCworld.pricegrabber.com: I'm a little biased here, so pardon my conflict-of-interest for a minute, and try PCWorld's Product Finder. Primarily hardware, software, and electronics, it gives you a way to find products, and check and compare their prices. Three things I like better here than the other sites: I can easily track a product, watching for price changes, just by supplying my e-mail address. Next, if the product's been reviewed by PC World, one click gets me to the article. Finally, the site gives me access to the full spec sheet of the product, something I find invaluable.

** Cnet's shopper.cnet.com: Does a decent job with hardware and software but only so-so for consumer electronics. It's sometimes difficult separating ads from product reviews.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG Write to him at Steve_bass@pcworld.com. Check PCW's current edition at http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

Mail List Netiquette

by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Many of you subscribe to interactive mail lists. I'm on many, and I moderate quite a few, including my broadband and CD-ROM yahoo groups. When you reply to a message on this sort of list, it's essentially the same as sending an e-mail, but with added restrictions. Here are a few rules to consider adhering to for your lists, and maybe applying to your e-mails.

Don't Waste Bandwidth: So many messages, so little time, right? Well, avoid responses that the entire list won't find useful and might feel obligated to at least glance at. So, don't reply to the entire list with responses like, "thanks," "good idea," or "I'll try it!" Instead, reply to the sender only. Look carefully and you'll probably see the sender's e-mail address near the top of the message.

Good one, Steve! In case you aren't clear about Wasting Bandwidth, consider this. When replying to messages, do it only when you have something substantive to say. Sorry, "Good one, Steve" does not qualify as substantive. ☞

Share Your Expertise

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

Snip, Snip: When replying, it takes a few seconds to snip extraneous junk and leave only essential portions of the previous message. No matter what you do, get rid of the tag line the info about subscribing and unsubscribing from the previous message.

Keep Snipping: Did I explain that it's best to quote only those brief portions of the previous message, and only items that are necessary to make your point? Good. I'm not kidding.

Avoid HTML: Stick with straight text when replying to or sending messages on lists. Not everyone's e-mail program can read all your fancy fonts and formatting.

Keep Files to Yourself: Attachments are usually frowned upon to avoid any chance of getting a virus.

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Vinyl LP to Audio CD or MP3 Files

By Bruce Fries - author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook

With a good sound recording and editing program you can take those old scratchy LPs and 78s and record them through your sound card, filter out all those clicks and pops, and then burn the music to an audio CD or store it as an MP3 file. The following process also works for recording audio from other external sources, such as cassette tapes and microphones.

Use a program like CoolEdit 2000 (www.cooledit.com) for the PC or Peak (www.bias-inc.com) for the Mac. Demo versions of both programs can be downloaded for free.

Connect Your PC to Your Stereo

The first step is to connect an adapter cable from the tape out (or record) jack of your stereo receiver to the line input of your sound card. These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics. Newer turntables with line-out jacks can be connected directly to the sound card,

Set the Sampling Rate and Resolution

The next step is to create a new file in the sound-editing program. If you intend to create an audio CD, you must choose a sample rate of 44,100, two channels (stereo) and a resolution of 16 bits. This will create a file that takes up approximately 10MB of space for every minute recorded, so you will need plenty of free disk space. For voice or music to be embedded in a Web page, you can use a lower sample rate, a single channel and 8 bit resolution to create a much smaller file,

Set the Recording Level

Now play part of the track and use the Volume Control program to set your recording levels. In Windows, the first screen of the Volume Control program is for playback levels. To get to the Recording Level screen, choose Properties from the Options menu and select the checkbox for Recording. Make sure the checkbox for the Line-In volume control is also selected. Click OK and the Record Level screen will appear. Set the Monitor Record Level option in your recording program to On, and, as the track plays, adjust the slider for Line-In so the level meter shows a strong signal, but not so strong as any peaks cause the meter to go into the red area.

Record the Audio

Lift the stylus and queue up the beginning of the track. Click the Record button in your recording program and then lower the needle. Make sure no other programs are running while you record. When the track is finished, *click* the Stop button and lift up the stylus.

Remove Clicks, Pops or Hiss

Play back the track to hear how it sounds. Trim off any silence at the beginning and ends of the track. If you have an audio clean-up plug, use it to automatically remove any clicks, pops and hiss. If you don't have an audio clean-up plug-in, you can zoom in to each click or pop, select an adjacent cycle of the waveform at the zero crossing points, copy it to the clipboard, and then paste it over the cycle that contains the click. Listen to the track again and *run* the hiss removal if necessary.

Normalize the Volume

Normalize the track to adjust the volume up or down so that all tracks will play at a similar level. A value of 97% usually works well if your software normalizes by peak level. More advanced programs, such as CoolEdit Pro, can normalize by average levels, which is much more accurate. At this point, you may want to add a fade-in or fade-out. Some CD recording programs, such as Nero (www.nero.com) can automatically cross fade tracks as the CD is recorded.

Save to a WAV or MP3 File

If you intend to record the track to an audio CD, save it to a PCM format WAV file (PC) or an AIFF file (Mac). Save the file to MP3 format if you want to play it from your computer or on a portable player.

Record an Audio CD

Now you can use a CD-Recordable drive to create a Red Book audio CD that can be played in most CD players. Avoid using CDRW media because it will not be compatible with most CD players.

It pays to experiment with a short clip before you record and cleanup an entire album. Find out which settings work best for different types of recordings and write these down for future reference. ☞

Many of these old 78s and LPs are irreplaceable, so it pays to preserve them in a digital format. If you ever have recorded a cassette or reel-to-reel tape, you should be comfortable with this process and delighted with the ability to improve the quality of the audio

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio *Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCorn Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.*

MP3's Aren't Just Music Anymore

By David Navratil, Member 1960 PC Users Group, Houston, Texas

July 2002 PC News

Just about everyone with a computer has probably tried their luck with downloading MP3 files. In the past two years I've put together quite a collection of songs from the 1920's through the 1970's, accumulating almost 3,000 songs during that time. I've covered the Big Band era, easy listening, holiday music, country, folk, classical - just about every genre you can imagine. During one of my many afternoons of surfing the net looking for that one elusive MP3 that would fill another CD-R, I came across a genre that was new to me but may be of interest to members of our club.

The name of these new finds is "Old Time Radio Show" or OTR's for short. What could be a better use for the MP3 format than OTR's! Most OTR's length is from 15 minutes to 1 hour. In regular "wav" format the size of one of these files could be from 60 MB to 400 MB but in MP3 format an average show is from 3 MB to 30 MB. Another advantage is that since most of these shows are from the 1920's through the 1950's the sound quality of course are not up to par with newly recorded material. This again saves you room on your hard drive because you don't have to use a bit rate of 128 kbps but can use 24 to 64 bits. (Most OTR's I've downloaded from the net are in 24 to 32 kbps.) This lower bit rate saves much space and when played back kind of gives the performance that "old time radio sound". You can easily record 60 hours of OTR's onto one CD-R, using the lower bit rates, without sacrificing sound quality.

As to the quantity of OTR's available on the net, I have found at least 560 different series and as many as 57,000 different programs. Some of the more popular and easy to find are - Amos & Andy, The Shadow, Fibber McGee & Molly, Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Dragnet, Inner Sanctum, I Love a Mystery and the list just goes on. Most of these shows include the original commercials that were aired at that time. The shows started becoming popular in the late 1920's and I have some from as recently as the 1980's. I have many of the "Classic Books" presented in OTR format. These are not audio books where one person just reads to you, but full productions with sound effects, music and such. Most of these last from one hour to three hours. The late Orson Wells was involved with many of "Classics". Some titles are "War of the Worlds", "A Christmas Carol", "Pride and Prejudice", "Time Machine" etc.

Finding these programs on the net is even easier than music. There are thousands of individuals who collect OTR's as a hobby. Most of them have their own websites and offer a few selections to download changing the selection each week or month. Many sites will also send you an email when new offerings are available. You can go to Google or any search engine and key in "OTR" or "Old Time Radio Shows" and you will get thousands of different sites. Also using one of the many music download sites, such as KaZaa, keying in the name of the series will bring up hundreds of results. You can join OTR clubs at any of the major websites like AOL, Yahoo, and MSN. There are OTR trade and share sites where you post a listing of the shows you have and can trade via CD-R with others for shows you need.

If you are running out of hard disk space or don't have a CD burner you can still enjoy the experience of OTR's. There are many sites on the web that broadcast the shows over the web in different formats. All you need to listen to these is one of the many free media players available on the web.

Turn off the TV some night, relax and listen to one of these shows and you to may find that MP3's are not just about music!!

Here are a few sites to get you started:

http://old-time-radio.com/

http://www.starcreations.com/otr/links/MP3links.htm

http://www.homestead.com/repsonline/
            BrowserDownloads.html

http://users2.ev1.net/~ey/audio.html

http://www.otrcat.com/index.html
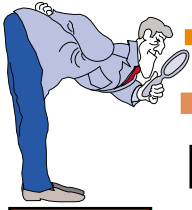
Microsoft Publisher 2002

by Alan Pearlman NOCCC

Microsoft Publisher 2002 is an easy to use software program for desktop publishing for a small office. Bu using the wizards a user can easily create newsletters, flyers, sales brochures or other documents where text does not flow from the left-side of a line to the right-side of a line as in an essay. Microsoft has designed this program with many features and still maintained its short learning curve, unlike some of the higher end publishing programs like Adobe PageMaker. Installation took an un eventful ten minutes.

The opening screen of Microsoft Publisher 2002 asks you if you want to create a new design by publication type (newsletter, web site, invitation, post card etc.), by design set, (accent box, borders, capsules, etc), or by blank publications. A design set is a group of several documents already formatted with certain graphic layouts. Some of the items included are expense reports, fax coversheets, gift certificates, business cards, letterhead. Microsoft Publisher has blank templates for business cards, folded cards, index cards, banners and posters.

When I was reviewing this package, I was looking for features that would give me a reason to use it extensively since a lot of its features I could do I Microsoft Word. Since this package is sold separately from Microsoft Office, this did concern me. I have used Microsoft Word for many years and taught it in a classroom. One feature I found easier in Publisher was the ability to create non-linear columns. This is where you have a picture inside a column, as is commonly found in a newspaper. While Microsoft Word allows you to create columnar text, Microsoft Publisher allows you to create columns that can flow from page to page and each page does not require the exact same layout. Some of the others are its graphic ability for the Internet.

New to this release of Publisher is the ability to type the text in Microsoft Word, and then put it back in Publisher. If that doesn't seem to make much sense, it actually is easier because while in Publisher you are looking at the complete page layout and not the text. If you enlarge the screen enough so you can type in the text, Publisher is actually a little harder to operate if you don't have a fast computer. You also new have the complete set of Microsoft Office drawing tools.

Creating a publication in Microsoft Publisher is easily accomplished by using simple tools. Each different tool puts a different element on the page. These elements may include text boxes, lines or pictures. By using these tools, a simple document can be created in just a few minutes. I created a new brochure to use at the swap meets in about an hour. While this product is easy to use, its files cannot be sent to many commercial printer for digital printing.

This product is available anywhere Microsoft Office is sold. The retail price is approximately $129.00. The deluxe edition which includes some photo editing tools sells for approximately $149.00.

BackUpMyPC - Version 4.81

By Jim Goda, NOCCC

BackUpMyPC from Stomp, Inc. is a program that provides data protection and disaster recovery. You can backup a single file or your entire hard disk. The backup data can be stored on all types of removable media such as floppies, CD or DVD, tape, or hard drive. A Disk Spanning feature automatically prompts you to change disks when large quantities of data require it. In a peer-to-peer network, BackUpMyPC allows you to backup remote computers onto the backup recording device where BackUpMyPC is installed. Backup jobs can be scheduled to run automatically. Besides a backup device, minimum system requirements are: 155MHz Pentium; 54 MB RAM; 50 MB hard disk space and Windows 95 or higher. BackUpMyPC can be downloaded from Stomp Inc for $69, or can be purchased on CD ROM for $79.

I installed BackUpMyPC on a Dell 1.8 MHz, Windows XP Home computer in a peer-to-peer wireless network. The Dell has 640MB RAM and 2 hard drives (20GB and 30GB). The recordable backup device is a TEAC 4x CD-R/RW. The installation went smoothly, with no problems. The first time running BackUpMyPC went as follows. I bypassed a dialog box, which allows you to schedule backup jobs, figuring it could be done some other time. Next, a wizard invited me to create a disaster recovery data set and backup my entire computer. I selected this option, and was told that I would need 4 blank floppies and my Windows XP CD. After the 4 bootable floppies were created, I was led through the insertion of blank CD's as the complete backup of my computer began. I decided not to make the complete

backup until another time, since 30 CD's would be needed. Therefore I stopped the job after the 6th CD. I was able to successfully run Verify on the job up to the point where it stopped, and I'm sure the complete backup would have been successful.

I wanted to run a full backup to completion, but did not want to use up a lot of disks. I selected one of the computers in my network (Kids Computer) which has a 2GHz hard drive, and would create a much smaller job. Also the backup of a remote computer over a network could be tested. A disaster recovery set can't be created when running BackUpMyPC on a networked remote computer, but I had already run that feature on the Dell. So, I ran a new backup job of Kids Computer over the network from the Dell. At first there was some difficulty trying to get the program to recognize the C: drive on Kids. But by mapping the network drive as Z: on the Dell, the job could begin.

The remote backup began by warning me that the media could only hold 700 GB, while there were 1,736,633,857 bytes to be backed up. Selecting OK began the recording. The first disk took 2hr: 55 min. and actually backed up 889.2 GB instead of 700 GB (because the compression option was selected. The job completed with 2 CD's and took a total of 6 hours. Some errors were reported in the log, dealing with shortcuts on the remote computer pointing to missing files. Running Verify compared the data backed-up on the media with the data in the computer. The successful Verify operation took 2 hr: 4 min. for CD#1. Total time to verify the 2CD's was 4 hr:1 min.

Next, the incremental backup was tested by changing one file on the remote computer, then running BackUpMyPC. I was given the opportunity to append to the CD-R, or start a new one. I chose append. As expected, the default BackUpMyPC settings caused the program to backup only the files changed since the last backup. The second backup took 10 min: 9 sec.

In an effort to evaluate Tech Support, I went to the Web Site. Support is available by e-mail, online, or telephone. I called the tech support phone number at 4:32pm on a Monday and ended up with a voice mailbox, after being told that support hours were until 5:00pm. At 4:42pm I tried another number, which was from customer support. The same messages led me to the same mailbox. I left a voice mail both times, stating that I am reviewing BackUpMyPC for a local computer club. As of Tuesday evening there was no response to the either voice mail. The good news is that I also left an e-mail with 2 questions (see next paragraph), and received a very prompt response the next morning. The questions were answered fully, and I was invited to download a free evaluation copy of BackUpMyPC to see for myself. Could this excellent response have been because, in the e-mail, I hadn't identified myself as a reviewer?

My e-mailed questions dealt with disaster recovery. Disaster recovery is an intriguing feature, but I was afraid to create a disaster on one of my computers. Therefore I asked

tech support for more details than I could find. The answers are given here, and they illustrate an additional, valuable feature of BackUpMyPC: "1. Yes, you can do a full restore to a new hard drive. 2. You will not have to contact Microsoft to re-activate XP." Thus, it seems to me that BackUpMyPC's disaster recovery can be used instead of a "disk image" program when you upgrade to a new hard disk.

In summary, BackUpMyPC is an excellent backup program, with features that go far beyond the expected ones. Terse instructions sometimes required a bit of trial-and-error, but not enough to be a problem. Tech Support wasn't available by phone at an advertised time, but was "superior" by e-mail.

WinFax Pro 10.0

By Jim Goda, NOCCC

I have used Symantec's WinFax for many years, and on many computers. In fact, I still have a 3 1/2" floppy disk containing WinFax LITE version 3.0, by Delrina. This review is of the latest version of that venerable product, WinFax Pro 10.0, which has been taken over and is now offered by Symantec. (In this article we will call it WF10). WF10 is mature and popular, so any improvements in new releases are mainly for keeping up with newer versions of Windows and Office (XP in this case). Office is not necessary but, if you do have Office, there are several features that can integrate faxing with your Office programs.

The package, which I received, contained a very well written (142 pages) User's Guide, and the installation CD. The retail price is $99.99 at CompUSA or similar stores.

The WF10 program is for sending and receiving faxes from and to your computer. The machine on the other end can be another computer, or it can be a special-purpose fax machine. Additional features are: Ability to build a fax from multiple document sources including scanners; High quality outgoing graphics; Scheduling capability; Various cover sheets; and Network Fax Sharing for Workgroups. The box also mentions "retrieval of fax, voice and e-mail messages with universal inbox." This was encouraging to me, since I was hoping to upgrade my Talkworks Pro.

Talkworks Pro is also a Symantec program, which they have stopped upgrading since the introduction of Windows XP and Office XP. Talkworks Pro included Winfax Pro 7.0 as a subset. Unfortunately, WF10 is completely dis-associated from Talkworks, and voice messaging is an "optional" capability, through a third party service. Therefore Symantec leaves its Talkworks customers in the position of staying with Windows 98 and Office 2000, or going to another company's product, such as Hotfax Message Center.
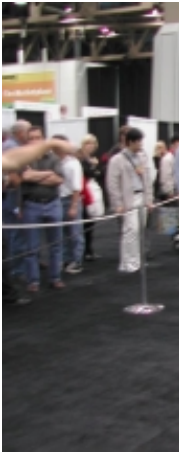
Vance Yokum talks about the new Palm SIG

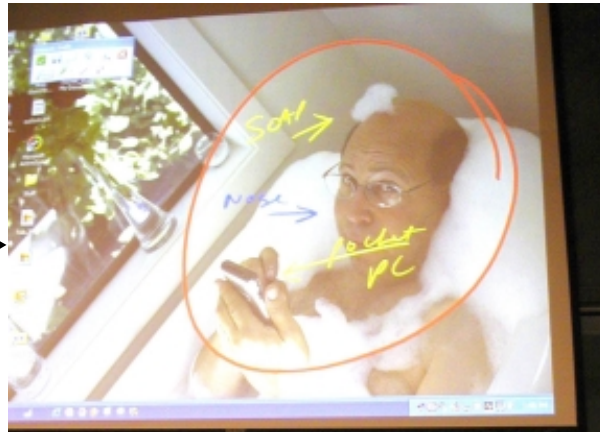**Richard shows off the PC Tablet** ➤

Richard Katz starting his presentation
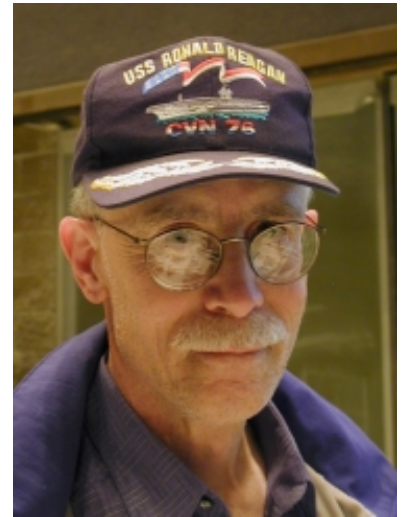

Joe Sherry at Random Access

The
prize

Richard
gets a
laugh out
of Larry

The APCUG JASC meeting in Las

Jim Sanders and Elise Edgell get to ride a Segway at COMDEX

The
Toys

Talking about the Toys after the show

s Vegas

WinFax Pro 10.0 *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13*

I installed WF10 on a 233Mhz K-6 laptop computer running Windows XP and Outlook 2000 in 64MB RAM. The laptop is part of a wireless network in my home, and it can reach the Internet at cable speed. The installation was very smooth after a few problems were overcome. First, I had to remove Talkworks Pro when the WF10 installation stopped and informed me that there was another version of WINFAX on my computer, and that it would have to be removed. The next installation went smoothly, but when I tried to send an "email fax," the Word 2000 program opened, then closed.

I used the "repair" feature in Office to make sure Word was not corrupted, but the repair did not help. I uninstalled WF10, and Word opened correctly. I installed WF10 again, and the Word problem was back! Suspecting that it was a problem caused by the macros that WF10 installs for easy faxing from Office programs, I found the directory which contained those macros. By running a macro install program in this directory, the problem was cured. Again I tried the "e-mail fax," and it worked as expected. The above problem could have been because I selected the "custom" (and chose to install everything) rather than "typical" installation the first time.

I believe that WF10 is an ideal program for sending and receiving faxes. Users can easily compose documents in Office programs such as Word or Excel, and fax them with high quality results. You can scan pictures or documents directly from the Winfax Message Manager. If your computer is turned on, WF10's "auto receive" is very reliable. You can select a fax recipient's name and fax number from your Outlook address book. That feature is limited, because during installation you are forced to choose either your "business" or "home" address book entries. Using Outlook I have not strictly kept track of any distinctions in those categories, so I was forced to lose some of the addresses. The integrated address book is not available when using the "e-mail fax" feature.

The scheduling feature is handy. I often prepare and fax billing statements in the evening, and some customers do not leave their fax machines on at night. By scheduling the fax transmission to occur during their working hours, my billing gets done reliably while I do other things.

I tried to test the Network Fax Sharing feature by configuring my Talkworks (on another networked computer) as a server. When I tried to configure WF10 (on the laptop) as a client, there was a message saying that both computers have to be running the same software versions. Since my one copy of WF10 should only be installed on one computer, I didn't try any further.

Support is unlikely to be needed, but logging onto the Symantec web site leads to a support page for Winfax 10.0. At that point, you can wade through the online side, or for $29.95 per incident you can talk to a person about installation, configuration, or troubleshooting.

In summary, Winfax 10.0 works very well as a standalone fax program and is highly recommended for that purpose. Integration features are so-so. As for support: try not to need it!

Getting Started with Internet Music

By Bruce Fries author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook

This article provides an overview of what you need to record and play music on your computer and how to get music from the Internet.

Introduction: New audio compression technologies, such as MP3, allow you to use your computer as a digital jukebox that can hold thousands of CD-quality songs. You can quickly find and play any song with a click of a mouse and never have to worry about tapes wearing out or records getting scratched. Instead of spending hours making tapes or programming a CD changer, you can compile customized play lists in minutes.

Audio compression also makes it practical to download music from the Internet, where you can access thousands of songs from artists all over the world. With MP3, you can download a four-minute song in less than 15 minutes (with a 33.6 kbps modem), compared to more than 3 hours for the same song in CD audio format. Now you can sample a wide variety of music from the comfort of your home and find some great music from independent artists you might not otherwise be exposed to.

Music on the Internet On the Internet, you'll find music in the form of files that can be downloaded to your computer; music that you can listen to as it's 'streamed' over the Internet (similar to the way you listen to AM and FM radio), and physical media, such as records, tapes and CDs, that you can purchase and have shipped to you.

Downloadable music is simply music in the form of a computer file (usually MP3 or WMA format) that you can download from a Web site to your computer Downloadable music can be played on your computer, a portable digital audio player like the Rio 800, or newer CD players the Rio Volt (www.riohome.com).

Streaming audio enables you to listen to digital music without having to wait for the entire file to download. Streaming audio is used by many online music stores to play short clips from songs so you can listen to samples before you record a CD. To listen to streaming audio, you need a sound card and an Internet connection.

Digital Audio Formats MP3 (technically, MPEG Audio Layer-Ill) is a standard format for compressing digital audio. MP3 squeezes audio files to about one tenth of their original size, while maintaining close to CD quality.

RealAudio was the first widely used system for streaming audio and video over the Internet. It is a proprietary format, but it is used by many online music stores for sample clips of songs, and by many Internet radio sites.

WAV is the default format for digital audio on Windows PCs. WAV files usually contain PCM format audio, which means they are uncompressed and take up a lot of space (10MB/minute for CD quality audio).

Windows Media Audio (WMA) is a proprietary format developed by Microsoft. WMA is supported by most full-featured player

programs and by many portable players

Internet Radio Internet radio is a form of streaming audio, usually in Real Audio or Windows Media Audio format. MP3 can also be streamed, but is more commonly used as a downloadable format. Spinner (www.spinner.com) provides a nice tuner interface with access to dozens of stations and programmable presets. Sites like Live365.com and Radio.Sonicnet.com allow you to set up a personal radio station, which you customize by selecting the artists and the types of music you want to hear.

Hardware Requirements To listen to music on your PC, you need a sound card. To play MP3 files you need at least a Pentium PC (133 MHz or faster recommended) or a PowerPC Macintosh, a CD Recordable (CR-R or CD-RW) drive is recommended for recording audio (Redbook format) or MP3 (data format) CDs.

You will need plenty of RAM, lots of free disk space, and a modem to download songs or listen to music streamed over the Internet. To convert your existing CDs into MP3 files, you'll need a CD-ROM drive that is capable of digital audio extraction (DAE)- commonly called ripping.

Software Requirements To play MP3 files, you need a player program or a portable player that supports MP3. The latest versions of the Windows and Mac operating systems come with built-in players, but you'll be better off using an all-in-one program like MusicMatch Jukebox (www.musicmatch.com) because it has more features and is easier to use, even for non-technical users.

MusicMatch Jukebox includes everything you need to create, organize and play MP3 flies. MusicMatch supports ripping from CDs, analog recording from records and tapes, and burning MP3 files directly to a CD. MusicMatch also automatically organizes your MP3 files into separate folders by artist, album, genre and other categories.

To listen to Internet radio you need a program that supports streaming audio. At the very least, you should install the latest versions of the RealPlayer (www real.com), Windows Media Player (www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia) and a full-featured audio player, such as MusicMatch Jukebox. These programs will allow you to listen to the majority of Internet radio sites.

Downloading Music

To obtain songs in MP3 format, you can download them from the internet; create them from prerecorded music or obtain pre-made MP3 CDs. Web sites like MP3.com and Emusic.com offer thousands of downloadable songs in MP3 format. Many of these songs are free, and those that aren't usually cost only a dollar or so.

Creating Your Own MP3 Files To create MP3 files from records or tapes you'll need to record them in real-time, using a sound card. You should use a good stand-alone recording program like Cool Edit 2000 (www.cooledit.com), since the sound recording applications that come with most computers are fairly limited. Cool Edit also has a nice audio clean-up plug-in that can remove clicks, pops and hiss from the sound before you convert it to MP3 or burn it to a CD.

When you record using Cool Edit, the song will end up as an uncompressed WAV (pronounced wave). The advantage of a WAV file is that you have the option of editing it to adjust the volume or trim off unwanted silence before it is converted to MP3 or burned to a CD. MusicMatch can also record from analog sources like records and tapes, but lacks the advanced editing features of Cool Edit.

WAV files can be recorded directly to an Audio CD or converted to MP3 files. The process of creating an MP3 file is called encoding. Encoding compresses the audio by removing sounds that most people can't hear. The size and sound quality of the MP3 file is a function of the bit-rate used-the higher the bit-rate, the larger the file and the better the sound quality.

To create MP3 files from an audio CD, the best method is to bypass the sound card and tie the audio directly to your hard disk. Ripping is better than recording through a sound card because it results in a perfect copy without added noise or distortion. Because it is a digital process, ripping is also much faster than recording. For example, a system with a fast CD-ROM drive can rip a four-minute song in less than 30 seconds. Recording the same song through a sound card will always take at least four minutes

Most audio CDs do not contain information, such as artist names and album and song titles. To save you from having to enter this information manually, programs, such as MusicMatch, can automatically get this information from the CDDB (www.cddb.com) and use it to automatically name the files

Organizing Your Music Now that you've downloaded or created MP3 files, you need a way to organize them. MP3 files can be organized in one big folder that contains all files, or they can be grouped in separate directories with similar music. It's up to you to decide which method to use, although if you have more than a few hundred songs you should organize them in separate directories. Play lists are optional text flies that contain the name and location of each audio file. Each play list is like a tape with unlimited capacity where songs can be added, deleted or moved around without the need to re-record the tape. Play lists can be created and read by text editors and programs like MusicMatch.

Playing Your Music You can play songs from Windows Explorer or Mac Finder by double clicking on them. If your system is set up properly, this should automatically launch the player software (if it's not already running). You can also play individual songs by launching the player and using its "File Open" function.

If you have created play lists, you can load one into MusicMatch, set the 'repeat' mode on, and sit back and enjoy hours of continuous music. You can use the player controls to jump forward or backwards in the list, and you can click on individual songs to play them out of order. MusicMatch's play list manager allows you to add, delete and change the order of songs and even save the play list to a new file.

Recording Your Own CDs CD recordable drives (CD-R and CD-RW) can be used to record/create music CDs with compilations of songs from different albums and to back up data from your computer's hard disk. CDs are usually recorded in either audio or data formats.

Audio format CDs have the advantage of being playable in most CD players, though the capacity is limited to 74 minutes of music (approximately 18 four-minute songs). MP3 files are just data files as far as a CD recorder is concerned so you will need to record them to a data format CD.

With MP3 files, you can record more than 12 hours (about 200 songs) of high-quality music on a single CD, in less than 20 minutes with a 4X CDR drive. You can also use MusicMatch Jukebox to uncompress MP3 files and record the music to an audio format CD.

For more information on recording and playing music on your computer, pick up a copy of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook ($19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom.Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.

Reviews Editor's Corner

If you write a review for the *Orange Bytes*, you may keep the item. If you would like to review a specific product (software, hardware, or book), please let me know and I will try to obtain it. If you are interested, please contact me:

Ted Littman
NOCCC Reviews Editor
- **(714) 779-1936**
- **reviews@noccc.org**
- **TedLit@Adelphia.net**

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, OR BOOK!** Currently available (12-07-02) are the following **software programs**:

Quicken 2003 Premiere – Probably the best financial planning & tracking software, and it's better than ever.

NaturePainter Digital Canvas 1.0 - A new realistic painting program that makes it easy to learn how to paint with oils and acrylics before spending a bundle on supplies.

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

Advanced CATaloguer 2.3 – Easy-to-use software for finding files stored on all removable media.

Sygate's Home Network 4.2 for 6 Users – The top-notch firewall to protect your home network.

Red Earth Software's Policy Patrol 2 - Protect yourself against e-mail security threats with virus scanning, spam blocking, and other tools.

IconLover 1.11 - A great solution for extracting, cataloging, and managing PC computer icons.

Handy Backup 3.5 for Windows - Automatic backup of critical data to any storage type. **Essential Net Tools 3.1 for Windows** - A suite of network tools. **Xplay** - Enables Windows users to use Apple's i-Pod. It brings to you the power of the ultimate portable MP3 player. **Apycom Java Menu Applets 3.0** - Create cross-browser drop down menus, bars, buttons, etc. for your Website. **Microsoft Combat Flight Simulator 3: Battle for Europe** – Tactical air combat from the leader in flight Sims.

Greenface: The Virtual Reality 2.01 - An action puzzle/game for all ages. **Sammy Suricate 1.45** – A 3-D action/puzzle game designed for all ages.

WinTasks 4 Professional - One of the most powerful Windows process viewers to help optimize performance

3D-Albumn for Windows 2.03 – Create TV-quality animated 3D photo shows with music, text, & voiceover using dozens of different presentation styles.

CrazyTalk Standard Edition 2.5 – The "Talking Heads" program. Make your own still images look like they are talking.

Currently available (12-07-02) are the following **books**:

Digital Photography Pocket Guide – An O'Reilly book for anyone using a digital camera.

Membership Drive

Please tell more people about the advantages of membership in NOCCC.

Windows XP Home Edition: The Missing Manual – An excellent book by David Pogue for intermediate and advanced users of the XP operating system.

Windows XP in a Nutshell – One of the David Karp series to serve as a comprehensive but compact desk reference for XP users.

Windows XP Annoyances – Another Karp book to help customize & troubleshoot Windows XP.

Windows Security Inside Out for XP & 2000 – Another Microsoft Press book by Botts & Siechert. It covers security for Windows, the Internet, and your computer and how to keep the bad guys at bay.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman,
NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes were extracted from an OCIPUG article and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. After you have tested the product, consider these questions:

I. What is the product's stated purpose

and does it meet it?

II. Within its category of software (i.e., word processor, spreadsheet, database, etc.), does it stand out?

III. What are its major features?

IV. Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?

V. Can you quote or reference articles/ reviews in the computer magazines? The following list contains more specific questions that apply to either software or hardware:

VI. Requirements:
    A.a Operating systems?
    A.b Windows?
    A.c Memory?
    A.d Disk space?
    A.e Is a Mouse supported?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):
    B.a Was it difficult?
    B.b Copy or write protected?
    B.c Does it allow drive and directory selection?
    B.d Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system:
    C.a Hardware?
    C.b Operating system? Version?
    C.c Memory?
    C.d Video display?

IV. Documentation:
    D.a What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
    D.a Was it clear, concise and helpful?
    D.c Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:
    E.a How is the vendor's tech support?
    E.b Does it cost anything?
    E.c Is it a toll call?
    E.d Does the vendor provide Internet support?

VI. About the product:
    F.a What comes with the product?
    F.b What is the cost? (list & street)
    F.c Version number and release date?

    F.d How difficult is the learning curve?
    F.e Would you buy/use the product?
    F.f Do you recommend it?
    F.g What don't you like about it?
    F.h What improvements or changes would you like to see?
    F.i Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?
    F.j What warranty is there on hardware?

VII. What are the Name, Address, Phone number (including 800 number), and WEB address (e-mail and URL) of the vendor?

After you have answered all these questions you should have enough information to write your review. Please be precise but do not make it so technical that only a few people can understand. Please advise the *Orange Bytes* Editor if you need graphics, pictures, or illustrations to get your point across. ∎

Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals. We request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD- ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that is reviewed. An expensive software package ($300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program ($50 or less) might have 500 words. Reviews must be completed within two months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him at (714) 779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We

hope you enjoy writing your review.

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org Or just give the file on disk (with a printout) directly to Alan Pearlman (President), Jim Sanders (Publications Chairman), or Ted Littman on the next meeting day. If you e-mail your review, please also send a copy to TedLit@Adelphia.net.

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

All documents should have flush left margins, and double carriage returns (skip a line) between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the *Bytes*. Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! We usually have to delete and retype them, which can be a lot of work. CAPS are reserved for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word. We will add the underlining in PageMaker.

Also, please spell-check your article and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Do not use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

We will look forward to seeing your review in print and on the Web site. ∎

General Meeting
December 1, 2002

by Eric Saca NOCCC

At our December meeting, an entertaining old friend returned for another presentation, Richard Katz. He joined us to show off Microsoft's latest portable technology the Tablet PC and the Pocket PC. He also presented Microsoft's latest photo editing software Digital Image Pro 7. The meeting was opened by President Alan Pearlman. During Random Access, Cathy Grammer-Margolin announced the spectacular upcoming NOCCC Holiday Party on December 15th at the Margolin residence. She also announced Microsoft's Virus Hotline, 1-888-PC-SAFETY. Instead of waiting for Alan to introduce him, Richard Katz humorously introduced himself through Alan, acting as a ventriloquist. Richard started off his presentation with Digital Image Pro. He mentioned that this product was not designed to be another Adobe PhotoShop, with the extensive set of features that power users love. By contrast, Digital Image is for the average user who just wants to clean up his or her photographs and get them out. It is very easy to use and contains a number of features that allow professional looking picture touch-ups in no time. Richard launched Digital Image Pro and demonstrated the following slick features:

Use of the airbrush to remove shine from peoples' faces caused by a camera's flash.

Instant red-eye removal.

Use of the distortion brush to shrink a woman's face and make her look thinner. (Richard also showed how it can distort the woman's face by enlarging her eyes and disfiguring her mouth.)

Level auto fix, which he ran on a poor picture of flagpoles next to the sea.

Before level auto fix, most of the picture was dark because of poor lighting. Afterward, it displayed bright colors and looked like a perfect shot.

The hue/saturation level, which he changed on a poor sailboat picture. After the change, the colors were all vivid and balanced; the details were clear.

The lighting adjustment, which he used on a poor shot of his dogs. At first, because of poor lighting, the dogs themselves were too dark. After the lighting adjustment, the dogs were bright and clear.

He did the same on a poor picture of a building, where the sky was so bright that the building itself came out dark. The lighting adjustment instantly darkened the sky and brightened the building so the colors were in good balance. The building's features were all very clear afterward.

The zoom lever, which allows you to zero in on a specific part of a picture or move out to see the picture as a whole.

The use of Adobe PhotoShop plug-ins.

Richard ran a plug-in that turned a regular picture of a person next to a lake into a Monet-like piece of canvas art. Richard implemented each feature in a matter of seconds. He emphasized that the program is designed to beautify your pictures quickly so you can just get them out and impress your family and friends. A member asked how much Digital Image Pro 7 costs. Richard said it is officially priced at $100 - $110 dollars, but he's seen it priced differently at different shops. In fact, he just saw it in the paper on sale for $50. When asked by another member, Richard confirmed that Digital Image Pro can do 'batch processing' and thus perform a sequence of changes on several pictures at once. Next, it was time for Richard to show off Microsoft's new toys the Tablet PC and Pocket PC. To emphasize this, he changed the wallpaper on his Tablet PC's desktop. It was a humorous picture of him taking a bubble bath while browsing the Internet on his wireless Pocket PC. It was pure Katz.

Although Microsoft does not manufacture these PCs, it helped in their development by creating special versions of Windows for them. (The Tablet PC runs Windows XP Pro, Tablet PC Edition; the Pocket PC runs Windows CE.) As the operating systems are purchased with the computers, and produce royalties, Microsoft markets them just like their many manufacturers HP, Dell, Toshiba and other popular companies. Starting with the Tablet PC, Richard demonstrated how its built-in screen is sensitive to its pen.   You do not even have to touch the screen with the pen to make it react. Then Richard demonstrated how this PC is different from the traditional laptop. Originally, the laptop's screen closed downward, facing the keyboard. When it was closed, you could not see it. The Tablet PC's screen can be turned 180 degrees and closed, so that it faces upward when closed. Thus, you can still use it via the pen and mouse. Richard brought up the Windows Journal application, which comes with the Tablet PC Edition. The interface looks like a lined piece of paper, as in a real writing tablet. Richard used the pen to write on this 'lined paper,' and in so doing, he showed that it even recognized his "miserable" handwriting. It was able to convert it to standard text in most cases. The Journal application is designed to immediately recognize most types of handwriting even cursive. Thus, the PC becomes a virtual writing tablet for taking notes in meetings and classrooms. As it is also physically small, it mimics the size, shape and weight of a conventional writing tablet. Richard mentioned that the screen was designed pretty sturdy and can take the punishment of extensive pen use.

He demonstrated the following features on the Tablet PC:

Scratching out errors: He deliberately made a mistake writing on the virtual tablet. Then he demonstrated how to correct it by scratching it out. He used the pen to make a scratching motion over the erroneous word. It disappeared!

The ease of moving text around the tablet: He wanted to switch the positions of his second and third paragraphs. He brought them both down a few lines using a cut & paste feature. Then he cut the third paragraph and put it above the second   a trick not easily done on a real writing tablet!

The ease of changing text features: He changed the color of what he wrote and even italicized a portion of it.

The erasure block: A white square that he used to wipe out paragraphs at a time.

The search function: He searched for specific text in a set of documents. (This can be useful for someone who took extensive notes in a long course and needs to find a specific topic in his or her note files.)

How text can be applied to pictures directly, from the pen.

How sections of pictures can be cut out with the pen   simply by circling the portion to cut. Then that section can be pasted into another document, like an e-mail message, or made into wallpaper.

The Alias Sketchbook, which allows free-style drawing. The harder you push the pen on the screen, the darker your lines get!

A member asked how much the Tablet PC costs. Around $2,500 dollars. Another asked if you can paste objects like graphics in Windows Journal. Definitely. Another asked if larger screen sizes will be available in the future. Some have larger screens   it depends on the manufacturer. Another asked if the Tablet PC has voice recording. Yes, but it doesn't work well enough for a demonstration in an auditorium. Another asked how big the hard drive was. 30 gigs. Another asked how long the battery lasts. Two to three hours, depending on usage; wireless networking, which comes standard, drains the power quickly. Richard mentioned the philosophical discussions on the Tablet PC. Bill Gates thought it should have only the screen with the pen and mouse. Other designers wanted the keyboard as well. Thus, some models come with the keyboard and some do not. Richard also warned that we should always use encryption for our wireless networking for security. The Pocket PC is a small handheld device. It is essentially a type of PDA. It has a port to plug in chips that will eventually have gigabytes of extra memory. That port can also be used for digital picture chips, so you can browse pictures just like on a digital camera. Pocket PCs typically run at about 400 MHz. They come standard with 64 megabytes of RAM. You can run Windows Media Player on the Pocket PC. Thus, you can listen to your MP3s. Richard demonstrated this by playing an MP3. Most Pocket PCs retail for around $600 dollars, although Richard has seen them as low as $300. Like the Tablet PCs, they come with wireless networking built in. Their screens are small   200x340 pixels. Thus, you do not have the same display capabilities as on the Tablet PCs (or other types of computers). However, you can still perform many functions with them. Richard ran Internet Explorer on the Pocket PC and browsed the Internet. The screen was a little different from what we normally see, but the information was there. Richard noted one of the most helpful Pocket PC features: On the go, you can obtain e-mail, add contact names and addresses, set up calendar appointments and maintain other data on the Pocket PC. Then at home or the office, you can download that data and synchronize it with your Tablet or desktop PC. This synchronization can even be done wirelessly! He also noted another helpful feature: Remote Display Control for Windows CE   a program that acts like Microsoft NetMeeting or Symantec's PCAnywhere. It enables you to manipulate the Pocket PC's desktop remotely from another computer   even on a wireless network. Using this feature, Richard was able to display his Pocket PC's desktop on his Tablet PC. Thus, since the Tablet PC was connected to the auditorium's screen, the audience could then see what the Pocket PC's screen looked like. Richard mentioned that T-Mobile and other companies make Pocket PCs that double as cell phones. The possibilities for this technology are endless   and we are just scratching the surface! Richard closed his presentation by inviting everyone to come over and try their handwriting on the Tablet PC.

The subsequent raffle included copies of Microsoft Digital Image Pro 7.

Next Meeting - Jim Morrison on the new Adobe Photoshop 7. He will be showing us what it can do, and how to do it! Jim teaches Photoshop at a local college, and is one of our members!

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG

by Bob Krishfield NOCCC

Finally – Market Performance Up, Ready for a Year-End Rally

After two months of gains in the market, the technical indicators are looking good for continued upside movement. We reviewed key technical charts and found that the near term picture was favorable for stocks and mutual funds. These charts can be viewed on the website.   home.socal.rr.com/bobkrish/cainvestor.html

This meeting focused on methods for selecting stocks and mutual funds. The selection process reduces the population of stocks and funds to a list of 20 – 40 items that placed on a watch list, and one then applies various criteria for making buy decisions on the individual issues.

For stocks, we discussed screening strategies based on fundamental data, technical data, and hybrid approaches that used both. Of particular interest is Investors Business Daily's CANSLIM method, a hybrid approach that uses EPS, Relative Strength, Accumulation/Distribution, Group Relative Strength, Profit/ROE. For convenience, these indicators are combined into a weighted composite rating ranging from 1 to 99. We took a look at the top three stocks with

a 99 rating, looking at their performance and found that they had experienced strong performance and deserved a high rating.

The issue with this approach of choosing stocks with the highest composite rating is that these stocks will already have made a strong move and further gains may be questionable. The real question is to find those criteria to select these stocks before the big moves, when the stocks are forming a strong base. It would be interesting to plot the CANSLIM ratings of quality stocks over time to determine if the composite or any of its components are leading indicators. While these ratings are computed daily, access to a historical data base is not known to be available, and would require a lot of effort to manually record individual values over time.

For mutual funds, selection approaches involve ranking relative performance for a single period, or multiple periods. More complex approaches included ranking relative performance with measures of volatility and maximum drawdown (measures of risk). As an example of a multiple period relative performance scheme, the newsletter from No Load FundX was presented. This approach computes a composite performance rating using average returns for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months. The newsletter computes a FundX Score for its ranking using bonus points that are earned by the top 15 funds in each performance period, which are added to the composite rating.

Using the Pro TA charting and analysis program, the composite performance rating was converted to a custom indicator and added to listings of funds. Lists were then sorted to find the highest-ranking funds. Choosing funds with this method results in funds with high performance. Three funds were shown that were on the top of the list and they were performing well. There may be intervening periods of poor performance that is unacceptable. This suggests that the more complex methods that screen for volatility and maximum drawdown should be used.

Next month, we plan to spend more time looking at stock and selection screening methods. Members are encouraged to bring in some of their favorite screening approaches and a few different ideas to try out using some PC and Mac tools.

Computer Security SIG

by Dave Keays NOCCC

SUBJECT: Palladium and Zone Alarm Pro configuration

Decembers' attendance was low, so the discussion about Palladium was tabled for next month. (There's no rush-estimates are that it will be out around 2005.)

I'm still waiting for the SpamExam to be released (apparently the author got side-tracked with other parts of his life-getting a pilots' license).

In January, we'll be looking at screen-shots of ZAP3.1 (Zone Alarm Pro- a popular personal firewall) and discussing Palladium (Microsoft's new security platform).

There's quite a debate about Palladium: Will it eliminate all viruses, worms, trojan horses, and spam? Or is it just another attempt to pre-empt industry standards?

Macintosh SIG

by John Willner
willner@earthlink.net

Again we welcomed new members. Some were Windows users who had received Macintosh computers. One person was there for his sister's G4 on which she wants to run Final Cut Pro.

Since it came with just 64K of RAM our immediate input was to buy more, to buy only the RAM type Apple prescribes for that model, and to make sure there is enough of it. Not less than 512 megabytes was recommended for running Final Cut Pro efficiently, and preferably 1 gigabyte. Furthermore, our recommendation was to buy a reputable brand (such as Kingston) and not try to cut corners with off brands that might be cheaper, but marginal. This is to insure reliable performance most of us are looking for.

That subject prompted a discussion of using RAM from Windows computers in Macintosh computers. Several users have had success in doing so, but the practice might force one to take chances. The new high performance G4s use RAM tuned for maximum performance with dual processors. That would seem to be the wrong place to inject unknown variables.

We also suggested running Apple System Profiler, located in the Apple Menu. This software provides rather complete information about the computer and what it contains, including serial numbers. When in doubt about memory type, for example, the Profiler provides the correct information.

From this vantage point we started making recommendations about sources. Several members have had good relations with certain vendors, and those tend to be good leads to follow.

Our meeting on this date was not too well structured, although enjoyable, and it tended to be more random access in nature. Various people spoke about going on line with Apple to update operating systems. For example, OS 9 is now up to 9.2.2. Such upgrades are free from Apple. If one has Jaguar, upgrades are already becoming available for this operating system. The latest Connectix Virtual PC software was praised as running fast and with hardly any problems. Bob talked about his new HP laser printer that is providing good service. Claire spoke about deals on games. Mentioned also was the fact that Apple has a new coordinator of User's Groups. We should be hearing from him shortly.

Our next meeting will be the one just prior to MacWorld San Francisco. If anyone has special requests they should be received at that time.

Windows SIG

by James Smith NOCCC

At the December meeting of the Windows SIG we answered many questions about general computer maintenance. Some users were experiencing computer slow down after the computer has been on for a long time and/or connected to the Internet for a long time. Some suggestions included: disable Microsoft Office's Find Fast, use WinTop to determine which background programs are hogging CPU time, use MSConfig to prevent background programs from automatically loading at startup, and use MemTurbo to defragment RAM.

Find Fast is a program installed by Microsoft Office that is design to speed up searches for files by indexing the contents of your hard drive. Unfortunately, this indexing process can slow down other programs. To disable Find Fast click on the Windows "Start" button, select "Settings" and then "Control Panel". In the control panel window double click on the "Find Fast" icon. It looks like binoculars with a lightning bolt. If it is not there, you don't have to worry about disable it. Once Find Fast has been opened, RIGHT click on each item in the index list and select delete. There should be at least one item that says something like "C:\". Deleting this item will prevent Find Fast from indexing your C drive but it will not affect any of the contents of your C drive.

WinTop is a free program available from Microsoft that will display information about all the programs (or processes) running on your computer including what percent of the CPUs time is spent servicing each process. WinTop will only work in Win 9x kernel operating system (Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME). NT Kernel operating systems (Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP) already have this feature built in. The easiest way to get WinTop, and learn to install and use it, is to go to www.JamesCSmith.com, click on the "Windows Help Center" link and then click on "WinTop"

MSConfig will let you control which programs automatically load when you turn on your computer. To access MSConfig click the Windows "Start" button, select "Run", type "MSConfig" and click "OK". When MSConfig opens, select the "Startup" tab. For more information, visit the "Windows Help Center" section of www.JamesCSmith.com.

MSConfig is built into most (but not all) versions of Windows. It is missing from Windows 95, NT, and 2000. If you have one of these operating systems, you can get a similar program from any web site with freeware and shareware software. A good free program to search for is named "Startup Control Panel" MemTurbo will help speed up your computer if it has been a long time since you re-booted. After your computer has been running for a long time, or after you have opened and then closed many programs, the RAM in your computer can become fragmented (separated into many small chunks) which can slow down many operation.

MemTurbo will restore your system to the speed it was at when you first booted by purging many things from RAM and defragment the free space in RAM. MemTurbo is available for download from any major shareware website such as www.download.com. Other topics covered in the SIG meeting included the importance of installing the latest security vulnerability patches from Microsoft, and the usual questions about Outlook express preview panes and address books.

United We Stand

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders NOCCC

This month's SIG was somewhat segmented. I did a slide show of some of the pictures that I took at this years COMDEX at the end of the end of the New Technologies SIG. That overlapped into the 11:15 PC Q&A time slot. Richard Katz, the Main Meeting speaker then had a few comments of his own to add to the discussion about COMDEX. By the time he finished and a short break was taken, it was almost noon.

When the regular session resumed, additional questions were asked about the Segway machine (formerly referred to as "IT") that I had a chance to ride while at COMDEX. Since the interest in the SIG was high, I will review some of my comments to the group. Inventor Dean Kamen has created what I have heard referred to as a neat toy, a major advance in personal transportation, and a techno-geek's way to show off. I am inclined to say all of the above.

Without the five gyroscopes feeding information to the ten microprocessors, most of us that stepped on a two wheel platform like the Segway, would fall over within some small fraction of a second. But with the microprocessors using that information to feed just the right amount of control to the electric motors that are attached to the wheels, it is a stable platform. The one positive to standing in line for an hour before getting my chance to try out this new machine, was watching the mistakes my predecessors made. A big one, that was very common, was pushing the T-handle control away from the body to try and go forward. This seemed to be related to the concept of pushing on the gas pedal to make the car move. So when I got my chance to step onboard a Segway, I tried very hard to remember that it is just like walking. In walking you shift your body weight slightly so that you are out of balance and start to fall forward and then take a step

SIG List

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

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Gaming - PC & Mac	Science	203	9:30	Claire Lemire	NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net	714-740-1058
Genealogy	Irvine Hall	—–	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1434
New Technolgy	Irvine Hall	—–	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	714-998-7660
PALM SIG	Science	111	2:30	Vance Jochim	vjochim@webworks66.com	714-771-6564
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—–	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Ii	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iii	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iv	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Windows	Science	111	9:00	James Smith	jamescsmith@bigfoot.com	714-751-2922

Please report SIG changes to .... Linda Russell .. goodnewsent@compuserve.com   909-949-4930

NEW SIG

A new NOCCC SIG,
the Orange County Palm User Group,
will have it's first meeting at the January
NOCCC meeting day at
2:30 pm in Science 211.
The Sig leader is Vance Jochim, past
NOCCC President and past chairman of
the Lotus Spreadsheet Sig.
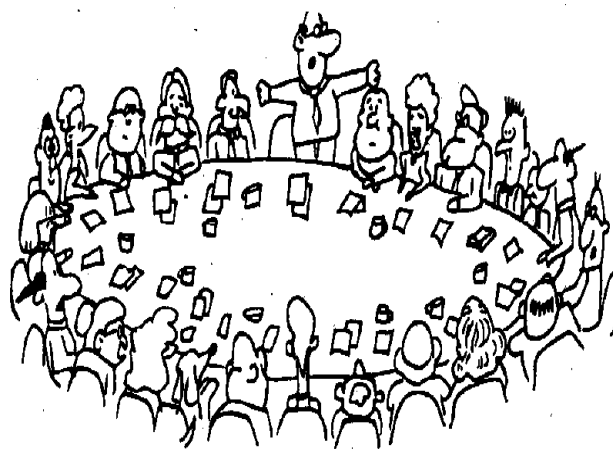
The IT Manager explained the foul-up with the date for the Christmas party For programmers:

DEC 25 = OCT 31

NOCCC Help Line

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

AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
Corel Draw
Excel(IBM)
Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
OS/2
Pagemaker 6.0/6.5
PC, Beginners
PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
Quickbooks 5.0
Quicken 2000,2001
Quickbooks
Quicken Home &
Business 2000, 2001
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect

Names and contact information for the NOCCC Help Line are available only in the printed Orange Bytes.

New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!
Macromedia volunteers needed.

to catch your balance. The fun part of the Segway is that you don't have to take that step. Effectively the machine takes the step for you. The same applies to going backwards. There is a safety feature built into the programming of the computers that lets you know if you are going faster than 2&1/2 MPH backwards.

Just like most right handed people have trouble patting their tummy with the right hand and at the same time rubbing the top of their head with the left hand, the first few turns at speed are a bit tricky. The right handle grip of the T-handle rotates down to turn right and up to turn left. Simple enough in concept, but while concentrating on leaning forward just the right amount to go forward, you tend to forget about centrifugal force. So after going back and forth in a straight line several times at different speeds, and making slow speed turns, I was feeling pretty confident. I decided to try making a circuit of the outside perimeter of the trial area. I moved to the corner of the rectangular area, and noticed that at least a couple dozen people were watching me. I leaned forward smartly, just like the instructor, to get moving along nicely and as I approached the next corner, I twisted the handle to start making my turn. The Segway obediently started making the turn but I could feel my body trying to keep on going straight. Hoping that not too many people noticed the faux pau, I quickly zeroed the turn control and leaned back to stop before I ran into the perimeter chain, as if that was what I had intended all along. The next time I tried that, I made sure to lean into the turn before I started making it.

I would dearly love to have one of these devices to use in my daily life. It is fun to ride and would have seemed right at home if it had been used on StarTrek DS-9. You can go to Amazon.com and buy one today. The $4995.00 price tag cools my ardor a lot, but if you have the wherewithal, what a neat way to make the Joneses envious and have fun at the same time..

There was another question at the SIG about whether there are different qualities of DVD-Rs, so I plan to talk about that at the next meeting.

Office Suites

John Heenan NOCCC jc_heenan@a-wares.com

Wa's happenin' in the Suite! The objective over the last several meeting is to develop an Order Entry application using Microsoft Access. The application is to provide for the following functions:

1. Entry of new orders by customer;
2. Print invoices;
3. Accept and record payments from customers;
4. Produce reports of Sales by Customer and by Employee, Cost of Sales by Product, and Aging of Receivables;
5. Interface with Contacts in Microsoft Outlook.

So far, we have created the basics of our Order Entry application using one of the wizards that are included with the Access software. We have discussed the pros and cons of linking the Customer table directly with the contacts in Outlook The alternative to this is to export the Contacts from Outlook in one step and import the Contacts into our application in a second step.

In our next session, we will be creating a query that will convert our Outlook contacts to suit the definitions of the Customer table that was created by the wizard.

GAMES SIG REPORT

by C. Lemire, MA NOCCC

Big interests are in play ;-) for the Games SIG. While the 4 day weekend had hurt NOCCC attendance (except the Financial SIG for some reason), Don Black of IEEE came by. While the OC chapter of IEEE waits for tech upgrades at another university, the Games SIG has offered to host their meetings. The offer was extended to the IGDA OC chapter as well.

Both Game Developer groups are just getting settled in OC and have been held back by the expense of meeting sites. Chapman University's new tech upgrades and seating improvements are an advantage for the cutting edge visual nature of Game Developer meetings. They could also provide presentations for the lecture hall in the future.

Thanks to Tim for the Games article in the December BYTES. His first-hand expertise has been generous to the shaping of the Games SIG. Both he and Don agree the term Gaming needed changing due to negative associations in the industry. Linda Russell, SIG coordinator, suggested using the plural Games to reflect the open format to all computer games.

The freebies this month were a copy of Windows XP Pro and 2 copies of Corel Graphics Suite 11 (WIN/Mac). The topic on January 5th is Game Development in Orange County - business, associations, and the future. Contact me at 714-740-1058 or NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net for Qs and to say hello :-).

Publication Information

Membership Renewal

When you turn in your Membership Renewal check, PLEASE fill out a Membership Renewal Application.

Memberships may also be re-newed on our Website noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date:_____ ☐ I am a new member
☐ This is a renewal; my membership number is _____
PLEASE PRINT!
Name _____
Address_____
City _____
State_____Zip _____ Phone_____
email_____
Fees: $30 per year plus $15 for each additional family member

Amount enclosed $_____

MC ☐ Visa ☐ _____ Expires _____

Please make check to **North Orange County Computer Club**
and mail with application to:

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange, CA 92857

Are You an NOCCC Member?

**Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now**

- **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 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.

- **Get help with your current computer problems**. In the Random Access portions of the meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

- **The NOCCC HelpLine**. Some 20 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 have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our New Technologies and General meetings.

- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD-ROM. Members review several products a month

- **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.

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

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

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

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

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Desk on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in!
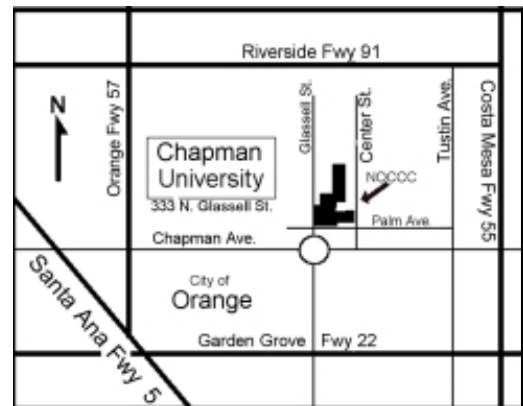
For current meeting information, please call **(714) 998-8080** for a recorded message.

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
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