NOCCC MEETINGS - February 2

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Printer Technology

Presented by Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
MAIN MEETING
Keith Renty of
Belkin Products

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

9:30 a.m.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES .... *Irvine Hall*
See box above
Basic HTML Webpages .... *Science 306*
Basic HTML Webpages using Notepad
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Hardware Essentials .... NOTE!!!   >   *Irvine Hall*
All about printers
Palms O/S PDA's .... *Science 203*

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 210*
Vendors .... *Science 127*
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.
Games for PC & Mac .... *Wilkinson 221*
Games development in Orange Co: who and how.
Genealogy .... *Irvine Hall*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
OS/2 News and Installation .... *Science 203*

** *Special 1 day class,* <u>*Basic HTML Webpages*</u> *using Notepad,   9:30, 11:15, 2:30 Science 306*

see page 24

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

Future Meetings
Feb 2 • Mar 2

Table of Contents

Member of
The Association of Personal Computer User Groups

ORANGE BYTES STAFF

Publication Chairman
Jim Sanders • 714-636-5523 .... jsanders@ligasmicro.com

Editor - *Oversees, edits, and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the* Bytes.
Jim Sanders .... editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production - *Lays out and formats in* PageMaker *the articles received from the editor, prints, and submits camera-ready copy of the* Bytes *to the printer.*
Jim Sanders • 714-636-5523 .... jsanders@ligasmicro.com

Contributing Editor
Timothy B. Everingham .... teveringham@earthlink.net

Editor/Reviews • *Communicates with the vendors and the members who evaluate products and write the reviews. Rides herd on members to make sure deadlines are met. Also makes sure that a copy of the* Bytes *gets back to the vendor with the review that was done.*
Ted Littman • (714) 779-1936 .... tedlit@adelphia.net

Copy Editor • *Does final proofing of Bytes for typos and mispellings.* Ted Littman

Circulation — *Oversees the mailing and distribution.*
VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!!!

Commercial Swap Meets • *Distributes* Orange Bytes *and* NOCCC *material at swap meets.*
VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!!!

Commercial Advertising • *Obtains ads from both national and local vendors for the* Bytes*; the success of this helps our club finances.*
VOLUNTEER NEEDED for local ads!!!!!
D J Jennings, National Ads .... dj97@hal-pc.org

Classified Advertising • *Obtains members' computer- related non-commercial ads.*
Jim Sanders • 636-5523 .... jsanders@ligasmicro.com

Help Line • *Maintains the volunteer list, and the software and hardware subjects for which they are willing to answer questions.*
Ted Williams • 639-1009 .... TedWilliams@alum.mit.edu

HELP WANTED

Commercial Advertising • Obtains ads from both national and local vendors for the Bytes; the success of this helps our club finances.

Founded April 1976

President's Message

We're half way through our fiscal year. We're financially holding on, but we could do better. Our meeting attendance has been slowly declining and the board has discussed at length how to get attendance up. This month we're going to try an auction at the main meeting. We will be auctioning off a 21-inch monitor, donated by a member. The auction will be at the 1:00PM main meeting. Payment must be made in cash at the close of the auction.

ACP has changed their swapmeet schedule for 2003. The swapmeets will not be on the last Sunday of each odd month. This is due to vendor requests to avoid conflicting dates with the Pomona and Costa Mesa shows. The swap meet dates for 2003 are: January 26, April 6 (new date), June 15 (new date), July 27, September 28, and November 30.

We're always looking for people to help with the booth. Give me a call in the evening and I'll give you the details.

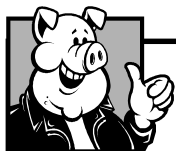Alan Pearlman
pearlmanA@aol.com

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.

NaturePainter Digital Canvas version 1.1, NOCCC members are offered a special discounted price of $24.95 (current price is $39.95, regular price is $49.95) for the download version. This is a realistic painting program that makes it easy to learn how to paint with oils and acrylics before spending a bundle on supplies. You can take advantage of this pricing by going to:

http://www.naturepainter.net/products_secret.aspx

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— visit www.newriders.com and check out their Promotions section. You can see examples there of some of the UG discounts they have set up for their 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/

January Board Meeting Minutes

NOCCC

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

---

February 2nd Meeting Preview

Main Meeting - Keith Renty of **Belkin**. We are lucky, lucky, lucky once again to have a really good presenter demonstrating a really interesting and useful subject – the latest in Wireless and memory products, FireWire and USB-II. Keith is an old friend who has been with us before – always to the benefit of our NOCCC audience. His company is famous for the quality and reliablility of its products AND the wide range of interconnectivity products it makes. Go to www.belkin.com to find products you may want to ask Keith about.

9:30 a.m. New Technologies Irvine Hall ---- Printer Technology

Inkjet, laser, Total Cost of Ownership issues, etc., Presented by Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC

This is a MUST ATTEND meeting. And we can expect some outstanding raffle prizes – in addition to our high quality

21 inch monitor raffle/auction

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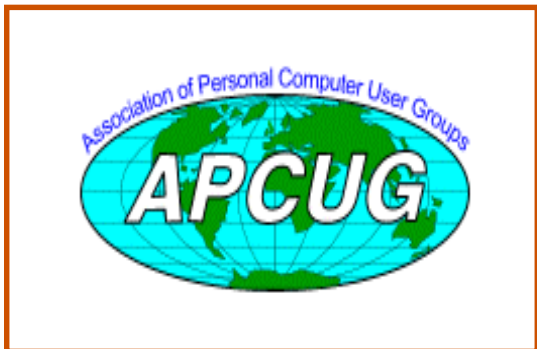
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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.

NOCCC Officers

President
Alan Pearlman .... 714-828-5242 .... pearlmana@aol.com
Vice President
James C. Smith .... 714-751-2922 .... jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Secretary
John Johnson .... 714-991-3314 .... jrosjohnson@juno.com
Treasurer
Elise Edgell .... 714-544-3589 .... eliseme@aol.com
Directors
Ted Littman .... 714-779-1936 .... tedlit@adelphia.net
Cathy Grammer-Margolin . 949-645-5950 .... inventor00@pobox.com
George Margolin .... 949-645-5950 .... inventor@pobox.com
Else Olovsson .... 714-832-3155 .... eolovsson@msn.com
Gerry Resch .... 714-772-6667 .... gwresch@hotmail.com
Linda Russell .... 909-949-4930 .... qbq@uia.net
Jim Sanders .... 714-636-5523 .... jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Herb Wong .... 714-968-7264 ... ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Past President
Terry Warren .... 714-633-5467 twarren@alumni.caltech.edu
Editor .... Jim Sanders .... editor@noccc.org
Webmaster
Jim Peugh .... 909-948-5150 .... Webmaster@citivu.com

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Business Solicitations/Lecture Series
George Margolin .... 949-645-5950 .... inventor@pobox.com
Consignment Table
Cathy Shimozono .... 562-437-1463 .... shimca@charter.net
Classified Advertising (non-commercial, members only)
Jim Sanders .... 714-636-5523 .... jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Commercial Advertising
D J Jennings ....dj97@hal-pc.org
Help Line
Ted Williams .... 714-639-1009 TedWilliams@alum.MIT.edu
Membership Database
Elise Edgell .... 714-544-3589 .... eliseme@aol.com
Membership Chairman
James C. Smith .... 714-751-2932 ... jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Programs
George Margolin .... 949-645-5950 .... inventor@pobox.com
SIG Coordinator
Linda Russell .... 909-949-4930 .... qbq@uia.net
Public Relations
Open
University Liaison
Terry Warren .... 714-633-5467 twarren@alumni.caltech.edu

Free Games

By Timothy Everingham NOCCC
teveringham@acm.org

So you spent all your money on computer hardware and productivity applications. You now have this very powerful computer, but it is all work and no play. You want to have fun with your computer, but you think you will have to wait until some new cash comes in that you don't have to be spent on necessities. However, you do not have to wait. There are some great free computer games out there. It is a matter of knowing where to look.

You think you will have to pay out a large amount of money to get a great flight simulator. That is not true. Welcome to Flight Gear, the open source community's flight simulator. Many have compared it favorably to Microsoft's Flight Simulator, and it's free. There are areas to fly all over the world, also free. You can even download all sorts of planes to fly for free. It runs on Windows, Mac, Linux and a number of Unix variants. The first version was released in 1997 with significant updates 2-3 times per year since. Some of the developers are those who develop flight simulators for commercial and military uses. Minimum requirements are probably a 500 Mhz processor with a 3D accelerated video card. If you can't download the 41 MB program, a CD with a lot of scenery to fly in is available for a fee. To download the program and for additional information go to the Flight Gear Website at www.flightgear.org.

Another great game is Tux Racer. You guide Tux the Penguin, the Linux mascot, down the slopes with many locations and weather conditions available. Many people love this game. However this game is not just for Linux users, but available for Mac & Windows as well. There are both free and pay versions. The free version has been downloaded one million times. You will need a 500 Mhz processor with a 3D video card. The download size is 7.6 MB. The site for the free version is at tuxracer.sourceforge.net.

So you want to conquer the world, but you do not want to pay for it. FreeCiv is a multiplayer Civilization clone. This is no simple game like Risk, but a complex game of resource and trade management and combat and diplomatic tactics. One you get the hang of it against the computer, and then you can play against other players over the Internet. A warning is that like the Civilization series of games, you may get so involved in the game you will not realize how much time you have spent playing it until you see the sun rising. Currently for Windows, Linux, Amiga, OS/2, and Unix variants; but a Mac version will be released shortly (If you are running OS X, you are running a Unix variant). Download is 3.0-4.3 MB depending on the version. For further information go to www.freeciv.org.

Free demo versions of many top games are available at www.3dfiles.com, part of the GameSpot Website. From a viewpoint of either a try before you buy or getting to play one or more of the scenarios of a game for free, it is a great value. Another such place is www.demoland.com, part of GameHelp.Com. An excellent site for free games is www.worldoffreegames.com. It is a well laid out site, easy to navigate, and a lot of info about and screen shot of the games. They also allow users to review and rate the games. You will even find great games of the not too distant past that the manufactures have decided to distribute for free, so called abandonedware. Additional sources of free and shareware games and reviews of them are www.free-games-net.com, www.download-free-games.com, www.free-games-zone.com, and www.freegaming.com. If you are into the games of yesteryear go to www.classicgaming.com, www.dosgames.com, and www.dosgamesarchieve.com. Classic Gaming even goes into how to play those old game console games or those played on old computers (Apple II & Commodore 64) on your computer (see emulation section). For those who want something different and sometimes bizarre go to www.fullgames.sk (a game using Britney Spears for target practice I rate as bizarre.) Linux users should definitely visit www.linuxgames.com. Microsoft has even gotten into the act with free games for kids at www.microsoft.com/kids/freestuff/.

There are also free online games sites. One is Yahoo Games (games.yahoo.com). There you can play many games for free and play against other people, even in tournaments where some of them are for prizes. The games have very simple graphics, with a lot of card games. Another site is Pongo (www.pongo.com), which is by Electronic Arts. In their tournaments you can compete for cash prizes. Shockwave.Com (www.shockwave.com) has all sorts of games and one of my favorite sites. There, one of my favorites is Tank Wars. There are a lot of try before you buy type games on it too. With many of these games you will have to download browser plug-ins to play. All Games Free.Com (www.allgamesfree.com) has free shockwave and java based games. Bonus.Com (www.bonus.com) is a good site for kids. Be aware that many free games sites are heavy with pop ads and some even try to get you to agree to add spyware to your system like Gator.

Many of these games, especially those that have multiple platform versions, you will have to have installed OpenGL video drivers. OpenGL is a multiplatform 3D video standard, unlike DirectX that is only for Windows. However, because many popular games use OpenGL, such as the Quake series, these days most of the time when you install your video card drivers OpenGL is one of them. You will usually see an OpenGL section in your video card's configuration

panel if the OpenGL drivers are installed. The recent driver packages for ATI & Nvidia based video cards have included OpenGL drivers.

For you that are looking for something really different there is something coming out called Facade. This interactive 3D rendered story has you being invited for diner by a couple that are long time friends. When you get there things quickly turn ugly because the couple is going through major marital problems. In this high conflict situation where accusations are being thrown back and forth, how you interact with these two friends will determine whether they make up or get a divorce. I saw this in July 2002 at the SIGGRAPH Conference, and it is fascinating. The goal of the game is to get the couple to make up and thereby save their marriage, but unexpectedly some of the beta testers got sadistic and tried to find out how fast they could get the couple to break up. The game will be released as a free download in the summer of 2003. For more information go to www.interactivestory.net.

There are a lot of free games and sources of such out there, far more than I can mention here. Now have a good time with your computer without your wallet becoming thinner.

Timothy Everingham

He is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. Further information can be found at http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham. ∎

Google is Great

By John Lenihan, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society

Listen to any of the technology talk shows or read articles that discuss "search engines" and you'll see that Google has been rated high for a long time. I find it accurately displays whatever I'm looking for, so much so, that it's like having an encyclopedia of knowledge at my finger tips. Newer engines are coming out, but I still trust Google to find my answers. But have you dug deeper down into what's available with this search engine? Well read on, because there's a lot more to it.

Get ready-start

Let's start by using the basic search window found on: http://www.google.com. When my computer runs into a problem and can give me enough of an understandable error message, I've

found that typing the message into a Google search window usually gives me enough hits to help me narrow the problem.

My son called me a few months ago and said he thought he had sent me a virus, and wanted me to delete the file called sulfnbk.exe. It sounded a little fishy, and since he was close to his computer, I asked him to type the file name into Google. He saw the words HOAX come up in big block letters. Google saved me the hassle of trying to resurrect that file later.

If you want to narrow your searches to just Microsoft-related pages, you can click on 'Advanced Search" and go to the bottom of the displayed page and click on "Microsoft." Thus, if you have an operating system or Microsoft application

question, this narrows the boundaries of the search. You can also get there directly by going to: http://www.google.com-microsoft.html.

Notice from the 'Advanced Search" page that other narrow searches can be done for Apple, BSD Unix, Linux, and Government-related sites. Try doing a "vanity search" by typing your name in the search box. Or even try it with friends you've lost contact with. I've found some long-lost souls just by doing this. Enter a name, city, state, or zip code for a business or a person and see if you get a hit. You may be surprised at how easy it can be to find information about yourself. Enter a phone number and see if you get a name back. If Google recognizes what you entered as an address, you'll get a street map back.

Google is so good at finding things that there was even a game called "googlewhacking" where people would try typing in a combination of words that just returned one search reply. It's fairly hard to do unless you use some really obscure words & variations.

The search screen

Looking at the basic search screen on the opening Google page, you'll notice four tabs on top. The default is the Web tab, which we were just using. The next one is the Images tab, taking you to: < http://images.google.com >. This will allow you access to millions of images on the Web.

Suppose your child is doing a school report on oak trees. Type "oak trees" into the images search engine and you'll find plenty of pictures for the report. Of course, I need to pass along the disclaimer that lots of stuff on the Web is copyrighted, so you need to be careful how you use what you find. But I doubt you'll get into too much trouble using a picture in your school report. But I did hear that teachers could use Google to search for text phrases in reports to check for plagiarism.

There are thousands of newsgroups in cyberspace, covering thousands of topics, and only so much time in a day. The third tab over is the "Groups" tab and **it** will let you find out what is (or was) being discussed out there that you would be interested in. For example, if you're thinking of buying a new digital camera, type the model number in the Groups search window. You'll see messages from people in various newsgroups that discussed that item. You can use this

Great **GOOGLE** grabs gobs of good guides

*by **Rob Eulow**, 1000 Oaks Personal Computer Club*

It's a recipe for chaos. Over two billion pages are out there on the Web. And they are interconnected by billions more hyperlinks. Another million or more pages are added every day. They can be any size, a simple document or an encyclopedia. The Web has become the gateway to humanity's greatest storehouse of knowledge about anything and everything.

Understand that and you begin to just slightly grasp the complex task presented to a search engine when you send its spiders scurrying for information. And there are rules to live by; break them and your search brings tens of thousands of "hits" many of which are misses. Example: say you're searching for Morro Bay. Type it into Google that way and you get 67,200 hits. Trouble is they're for Morro Bay - plus Morro and Bay individually. But put the search phrase in quotes - "Morro Bay" and the result is 57,400 targeted finds.

The first widely used Internet searcher was WebCrawler, introduced in 1993. Now there are hundreds of search engines and directories, with some 20 or so leading the pack. But the top dog has to be Google, perhaps the best Internet search engine around. If you're into instant gratification, search speed is astounding, results are clean and focused - and you're not buried in flashing ad banners.

Google first surfaced in 1998, the result of some noodling by Stanford University Ph.D. candidates Larry Page and Sergey Brim to create a new powerful engine that would improve the Websearching experience. Today Google has even become the hunter-finder of choice for Yahoo!, America's #1 portal. Sony Corp., AOL/Netscape, and Cisco Systems rely on Google to power searches on their websites. And last month, Earthlink, one of the nation's leading ISPs, chose Google as the search engine for its nearly 5 million subscribers. New Yorker magazine called it "the default search engine of the digital in crowd."

And it's become much more since the horrendous events of 9/11. Within minutes, Google was flooded with a tidal wave of related inquires. Rather than just wring their hands at the packed lines, the folks at Google turned it into a treasure trove of news sites. Go to their Web page and click on "News and Resources" and you're instantly at a portal to nearly 100 links of international electronic and print media, government sites and more. It's worth a bookmark on your computer. www.google .com/news

Google's lightning-fast response times are the result of the firm's unique hosting environment. Instead of running a handful of large servers, the Mountain View-based company uses a network of nearly four thousand Linux computers, each with 80 GB hard drives, to quickly find answers to a constant stream of questions. The name derives from 'Googol," the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros. It's a very large number - which is more than appropriate since the company says it gets something like 150 million queries from users who've come to depend on its laser-like focus. ON Magazine called it 'the closest thing the Web has to an automatic answer machine."

Is there anything Google can't find? It even indexes millions of portable document format files (the PDF files read by the ubiquitous Adobe Acrobat). Google's Image Search (www.images.google.com) even lets you hunt among 330 million picture files. Another 700 million Usenet posts which stretch back to 1981 and the prehistoric days of the Internet are also available. Actually, Google can now search documents produced in a dozen file formats such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint And if that's not enough to boast about, this privately held dot-com even claims to have made a profit in the past year!

A software robot dubbed Googlebot identifies and evaluates billions of pages of Web content, making it, according to the company, the world's most comprehensive search engine. The result is an average response time of less than half a second per query. Exuding confidence in the technology's accuracy, Google's home page carries a button

labeled "I'm Feeling Lucky." Clicking on it will take you directly to what Google decides is – more often than not - the best site for your search.

For users of Windows 95 and up plus the Internet Explorer browser (version 5 or higher), the search engine is now even better thanks to the Google Toolbar. A zap- quick download automatically attaches itself just below IE's other tool-bars. Then, no matter where you are on the Web, just type in your search word or phrase without having to go back to Google's home page.

And if you're mobile, this high- powered hunter can be used on PalmOS PDAs and wireless phones. Google's also involved in another mobile computing venture — an effort to integrate its search technology into BMWs new line of Internet-ready automobiles.

So if you spend time trolling the Net for information, this one deserves your attention and a bookmark - and a Google Toolbar. **www.google.com**

SIDEBAR

If you'd like to try other engines besides Google, here's some of the competition:

ALTAVISTA (www.altavista.com) - Among the grand-daddies of search engines, this one recently got a major overhaul. It now features Babel Fish, which can translate text or Web pages into a variety of languages. Altavista doesn't scour as many pages as Google, but it does have some interesting extra features.

SURF WAX (www.surfwax.com) - One of a type known as metasearch engines because they search other search engines. Surfwax. though less than two years old, is finding its way into many Internet tool boxes. Its unique format and proprietary tools make it worth a look.

IXQUICK (www.ixquick.com)- another metasearcher, this one speedily sifts results from a dozen engines including AltaVista, Excite and Lycos. The log-on sreen presents you with options to target searches in the categories of Web, news, MP3 or pictures.

From Nibbles and Bytes, Journal of the 1000 Oaks Personal Computer Club, July 2002. ■

Google is Great continued from page 9

method to monitor almost any topic you have an interest in.

The last tab over at the top is the "Directory" tab. Click here and you'll see Web pages organized into directories by topic, much like you'd see at Yahoo. For example, click on "Computers" and you'll see almost 50 computer topics arranged by categories, any one of which takes you to many other Websites. They advertise they have over 1.5 million pages indexed in this directory.

Want to keep up with current news stories? Go to: http://news.google.com and enter in a news topic. Say you wanted to stay abreast of the Hayman Fire that burned close to us a few months back. Entering those words into the search window resulted in stories from newspapers all across the country. Google would even tell you how old the stories were, with many only hours old.

For the linguists out there that need help translating short pieces of text from one language to another, there's http://www.google.com/language tools. Need help translating "yo quiero" from Spanish to English, then give it a try.

The future

Want to see additional tools being worked on by the Google development team? Look at:

Four tools are listed, the most interesting to me being the **glossary.** If you come across an unfamiliar word or phrase and go here, you'll get a link or pointer to pages that offer a definition.

Another tool at this site is **Google Sets**, where you can type in a few related words, and it give you a list of more related items. There's also a voice recognition tool to help you search Google by phone, and a keyboard shortcuts tool that lets you search Google without a mouse.

I hope I've convinced you why Google is great, not only as a search engine for the Web, but also for its many other capabilities for specialized searches. Do you ever wonder how history would look if recorded by the types of searches being done on the Web? Then look at the year 2001 laid out at: http://www.google.com/press/timeline.html You can see what was on the minds of many people that year by the searches that were

requested. So search wisely — historians may learn about us, while we learn about what interests us.

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.■

AMD News 01-16-03

by Timothy B. Everingham, NOCCC

I just came off of the 4 quarter/Fiscal Year End 2002 conference call for AMD. News significant to the computer user group community includes:

1. Shipment of AMD processors was far better in the 4th quarter than expected and is probably in part due to an increase in market share compared to their competitors (read that Intel).

2. The next 32 bit Athlon, code named Barton, release has been delayed until next month(was suppose to be this month). I believe this was a marketing move because they are doing so well with volume and margins on their current processors. Barton will increase the cache from 384 KB to 512 KB and have a 333 front side bus like the higher end current Athlons introduced in November. Pricing on these new chips will be in the $300+ range.

3. The desktop 64 bit processors called Athlon 64 have been postponed with no new date(was to be late March). AMD is concentrating on the launch of their 64 bit multiprocessor chips for servers and workstations called Opteron still scheduled for April release. Athlon 64 launch will depend on market conditions and concentration with their partners. It does not have anything to do with manufacturing capacity and the launch could happen any time after the Opteron launch.
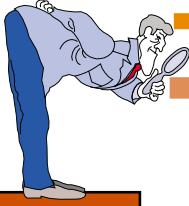
4. AMD will finish its force reductions during the 2nd quarter of this year, when also they expect to break even. They expect to be profitable during the entire second half of the year.

5. AMD just got a nice contract with HP for processors, which improves their situation.

6. They have just entered into a 3-year R & D agreement with IBM on 65 nm process development which will reduce their long term R & D costs which will also have an impact on manufacturing costs in the second half of this decade (probability that a chip manufacturing plant will be built in US with IBM as partner. Currently the Athlons and the upcoming Opertons are built in Dresden, Germany.)■

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?

Membership Drive

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

Microsoft Money 2002 Suite

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

The two most popular "must have" personal finance management programs are Microsoft's Money and Intuit's Quicken. With the 2002 version, Quicken is in its 17th incarnation while Money is in its 10th. It has been a tough struggle for Microsoft, who once tried to acquire Quicken, but Microsoft finally seems to have caught up; perhaps it even surpasses Intuit, at least in some elements of the program. While the focus of this review is on Money 2002 Deluxe, both Microsoft and Intuit now have their 2003 versions available.

The Microsoft Suite has two programs bundled with Money Deluxe: The highly-rated H & R Block's TaxCut Deluxe and Kiplinger's Home and Business Attorney. These programs are not reviewed here. Money comes with a useful 128-page printed User's Manual which also is available electronically as part of the software. I applaud companies when they provide printed manuals since I find it tedious to read through a lengthy description of a software program at the computer screen.

Money Deluxe is "full-featured" and covers every area of managing your personal finances, including budgeting, cash flow, asset allocation, debts, checkbook balancing, and check-writing, as well as on-line banking and tax planning. If you use TaxCut for preparing your federal and state income taxes, you will find a smooth connectivity with Money, which has long been a selling point of Intuit's Quicken and TurboTax combo.

Money is highly interactive with "Wizards" for startup, help on all topics, and for offering suggestions to improve your finances as well as connect you to useful on-line tools, products, and services. For example, Money's Background Banking can provide a steady stream of data from your financial institutions (banks, credit card companies, brokerage firms, etc.) to your software, even when the program isn't active! And these automatic downloads match results to relevant tax-form lines, a big aid to the do-it-yourself tax preparer. You also can use Money's "what if" scenarios to see how different financial choices affect your income taxes. However, there is a critical caveat to this interconnectivity – your financial institutions must provide the necessary capability to download the information and not all do that yet. My bank doesn't, although my broker does.

In fact, the trend in the last few years has been toward greater use of the Web in financial management with the aim, no doubt, of making users more aggressive consumers of on-line financial services (with the accompanying ads and other annoyances). Furthermore, Money requires you to sign up for Microsoft's .Net Passport to avail yourself of many services, an approach that is not universally applauded. However, this is in keeping with Microsoft's aggressive expansion campaign into Internet services.

Installing Money went without problems on my Dell Dimensions Pentium III XPS T500 computer with Window XP Professional as the operating system and lots of RAM and hard drive space. Money uses a lengthy "Assistant" with a Q & A format to initially set up your preferences, accounts financial information, etc. It's a good approach except for the fact that all options aren't available until you complete setup and start using the program. (The Assistant isn't available after the initial setup.) For example, the Assistant only seems to recognize income sources from wages. Those of us who are retirees on social security, pensions or other non-wages income, have to add these income flows after setup. The Assistant also takes you through the on-line setup of your Internet data sources using .Net Passport to secure your Money file accounts from which to download data and for Web roaming and synchronization. It also can store and remember your log-on names, numbers, and passwords for all of your on-line financial institutions in a "Lockbox," if you trust that .Net's and Money's security is OK.

Money's opening default Home Page window is a bit overwhelming. Fortunately, the program allows you to select and customize numerous other views and switch between them to suit your needs and temperament.

Money's Toolbar can be customized to give you quick access to your accounts, bills, portfolio, reports, and Web sites. "Advisor FYI," also at the top of the Home Page, gives you instant access to personalized financial guidance. In addition, Money automatically updates your Help topics when you are online. New relevant information, when available, is linked to the appropriate topic in Help.

Money's system requirements include a multimedia PC with Pentium 166 or higher processor (Pentium II 300 is recommended), Microsoft Windows 95/98/ME/2000/NT 4 or XP, 32 MB RAM (64 MB is recommended), 85 – 165 MB of free hard drive space (with an additional 125 MB if you run the instructional videos and audio from the hard drive), 2X or faster CD-ROM drive, super VGA graphics card, super VGA color monitor (256 colors minimum) displaying 800 x 600 resolution, and, of course, an Internet connection

and Service Provider.

For your further edification, I recommend several reviews by PC Magazine and PC World, which laud Money and can be viewed on line. Additional details on Money are available at Microsoft's Web site. After you purchase the program, I highly recommend viewing the dozen instructional videos (available in the Help menu), even if you are an advanced user.

If you are new to the use of personal finance software, Money is a fine choice, loaded with bells and whistles and Internet connectivity. I say this, even though I have used Quicken exclusively in the past and still find it to be an excellent program in spite of changes to make it "more like Money." Money has excellent graphics, a nifty (if limited) setup wizard, an omnipresent Help menu, and lots of choices for personalizing its windows, toolbar, tasks, and multi-themed home pages. In addition, there are loads of free financial and investment advice/services via MSN Money on www.cnbc.com. (Of course, trading equities isn't free!) You have the ability to pay bills either by printing computer checks or by on-line banking, for which there is a fee. My brother swears by the latter!

Money's reports and charts display just about every conceivable view of your financial data. In addition, available are a free year of MSN on-line bill paying as well as tax preparation/filing from H & R Block, a credit report, and other goodies. Considering the street price of the software (especially at outlets like Costco and Sam's Club), Money is a bargain, even if you have a prior version.

The Money 2002 Software family offers, in addition to the Suite, Standard, Deluxe, and Deluxe & Business (for small business users) versions to satisfy just about any need. Prior to the release of the 2003 versions, the Deluxe 2002 program had an MSRP of $65, but it can be had now for a fraction of that price. Money 2003 Deluxe lists at $65 (with a $20 mail-in rebate) while the 2003 Suite lists at $95 (also with a $20 rebate). The Deluxe edition adds powerful financial planning tools (Lifetime Planner, Financial Event Modeler, Capital Gains Estimator, etc.) to the Standard version of Money.■

Autodesk Inventor R5 Fundamentals

Book Review by Joe Mizer, NOCCC

This is a very good tutorial if you want to learn Autodesk Inventor, and it is available from CrWare. CrWare conducts seminars and uses this text in a three-day, 22-24 hours course of instruction. Since attending one of their seminars was out of the question I purchased the entire package that includes the multimedia extensions CD. Once installed the CD will present most of the material in the book in the form of a short film clip.
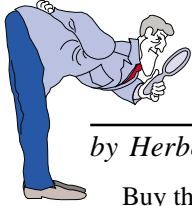
CrWare now has material for Inventor 6 and have indicated they will have E-learning soon. I did have a problem with the setup because of the priority of drivers in my windows setup. After a series of e-mails and two phone calls, my problems were solved in about thirty minutes. The book has thirteen chapters and is just over five hundred pages in length.

Chapter 1   Getting Started.
Chapter 2   Working With Assemblies.
Chapter 3   Creating Parametric Parts.
Chapter 4   Editing Models and Features.
Chapter 5   Adding Placed Features to Models.
Chapter 6   Work Features.
Chapter 7   Creating Derived Components.
Chapter 8   Creating Sheet Metal Parts.
Chapter 9   Adapting Parts and Sketches.
Chapter 10   Presentation Views.
Chapter 11   Documenting Parts and Assemblies.
Chapter 12   Annotation for the Sheet and Views.
Chapter 13   Importing Data into Inventor.

I am working my way through the book for the second time, and I will watch all of the multimedia extensions clips a second time. I like Inventor as a design and drafting tool and this book was a good way to start really learning the software. After going through the tutorial and working the exercises I am ready to start a complete project. I will now be coming on different problems than shown in the tutorial and feel I am ready. I do not expect any major problems as all of the basic construction and editing procedures were covered. The fast start tutorials included with AutoDesk Inventor are not adequate for other than very basic commands. The help section in Inventor is well written and provides a lot of help. I just do not like bouncing from one screen to the next to find the information I need. This book provided a guided tour by introducing the procedures of making parts and then creating a drawing. I have already recommended this book to a number of students as a way to get a fast start. Included with the book is a CD with the student exercises that gives partially made drawings and can then be used to add features and edit the model they have created. Chapter eight on sheet metal parts shows how easy it is to construct sheet metal parts. At work I am doing a number of sheet parts using Mechanical Desktop and hope it is the last time, since we will not be able to upgrade to Inventor until mid 2003.

The cost of the book is $70.00 by itself or $95.00 with the multimedia extensions CD. The new book for Inventor 6 is also available for the same price, but the multimedia extensions CD may not be available yet. This is low cost and high quality training for a company to provide to everyone using Inventor. Check out their web page at www.crware.com.■

PC Hardware in a Nutshell, Second Edition

by Herbert Wong Jr., NOCCC

Buy this book, everyone! This is one of the best computer hardware books that I have read. Short paragraph organization provides plenty of information that tempts one to pick up this book and learn something new.

Author Robert B. Thompson wanted to buy his first CD burner, but could not find resources that he considered accurate enough. His quest to find what he needed appears to have turned into an obsession and, ultimately, into this book. Along the way, his research assistant became his coauthor and, apparently, his wife.

His stated goal is to provide "useful" information rather than just "interesting" information. He has succeeded throughout the book.

There are three major aspects to this book. They are providing technological information, buying components, and installing components (how-to).

The most obvious strength of this book is the presentation of detailed technological information. For example, for each permutation of microprocessor, there is a complete explanation of every feature. The details are all there, but as we shall see, there are some larger omissions.

The authors freely give their advice about buying components. On the positive side, they recommend components that they have used and tested for a while. On the negative side, they recommend components that they have used and tested for a while. I mean that there is only a very limited amount of products that two people as compared to the staff of a periodical. Secondly, recommended components fade into the past faster than the publication schedule of any book.

As far as installation information goes, there are plenty of described procedures. They are detailed and useful, however…

From chapter 4 (page 180): "Good practice would have been to clean the leftover parts of the thermal pad from the processor and heatsink before proceeding, but we simply added a dollop of thermal goop, which worked fine." Leaving the "leftover parts" of the thermal pad to reflect heat back into the microprocessor severely jeopardizes the microprocessor's life and hundred(s) dollar value. Thermal compound should be used in the thinnest possible layer, not a dollop. Isn't the term *dollop* used exclusively to describe a quantity of whipped dairy dessert topping?

PC Hardware in a Nutshell does not limit itself to a nutshell. There are plenty of URL references in the text that take you to Internet resources beyond the printed page. Most URLs are for recommended products (software utilities, miscellaneous hardware, manufacturers, etc.).

The most commonly referenced domain is for the authors' web site (http://www.hardwareguys.com/). It has many additional photographs, "Supplemental Motherboard Information" (*A Motherboard Tour*), "Supplemental Processor Information," etc. The major (only) errata section is for broken links that changed because of inconsiderate webmasters.

The highlight of their Web site is entitled "Designing a PC." The printed book omitted this chapter due to the constraint of the publisher's maximum page count. Twenty-one thousand words detail the selection of entry level, basic, mainstream, performance, and dual processor systems, plus a section on purchasing components.

A stunning omission from this otherwise complete work is a treatment on printer technology. There isn't even an entry in the index for printers, cables (printer), USB (printer), etc.

Printers easily can be the most expensive component in a computer. Moderate usage of a printer can easily drive its total cost of ownership to several hundred dollars per year, more than the cost of many entire inexpensive computers. It is in the best interest of the reader to understand printer technology. To be fair, there is some printer information scattered about other topics (ex. – under parallel ports).

I suspect that the thoroughness of and attention to detail by the authors is the cause of this exclusion. The rapid pace of printer model introductions by manufacturers and vendors (who simply sell relabeled products) make it impossible for a book to provide timely information. A periodical is your best bet for finding the latest and greatest printer reviews. On second thought, perhaps there might be something usable, somewhere, on the Internet…

Also missing, to a lesser degree of importance, is a section on networking hardware. And, there is no chapter on modems. Ahhh! The *Microsoft Syndrome*! A PC is a stand-alone device that runs one application at a time and does not connect to any other device or computer!

In summary, **PC Hardware in a Nutshell** is a great book for those interested in PC technology, buying components, or building a system. It is densely packed with information that is both accessible and easy to read (for a technical book). The authors' research and hands-on experience are evident throughout; and they don't fear stating their opinions, too. Do not make the mistake of buying the biggest and most popular books on the shelf. It's all here **…in a Nutshell**.

This article first appeared in the North Orange County Computer Club's Orange Bytes Newsletter and at http://www.noccc.org/.

PC Hardware in a Nutshell, Second Edition (June 2002)

By Robert B. Thompson and Barbara Fritchman Thompson

ISBN : 0-596-00353-6. List price: US$39.95.

Published by O'Reilly & Associates, Inc, 1005 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, CA 95472.■

WinTasks 4 Professional, Version 4.15

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

This is a nifty Windows process-viewing utility by Swedish-based Leading Interactive. According to the vendor, it is intended "for Information Technology (IT) professionals, software developers, and other advanced users." In the last category, I would include Network Administrators as well as the myriad of "tweakers" who just like to improve the operation of their computers or are curious about what's going on inside of the box (like me).

Did you say that Microsoft's Windows comes with its own process viewer, the ubiquitous Task Manager Control-Alt-Delete? So, it does; but, to paraphrase the renowned Star Trek, WinTasks 4 goes where Control-Alt-Delete has never gone before! Not only does it provide a wealth of information, but also it can put you in full control of your system's resources.

With that said, use of WinTasks 4 requires substantive knowledge of your operating system and care in its application. But, thoughtful changes can streamline operations, improve performance, and provide assistance in locating and removing undesirable processes working in the background like Trojans, viruses, spyware, and other noxious intruders. However, if you really don't know what you are doing, changes to Windows Registry, for example, can cause a lot of grief, lost time, and possibly expense in setting things right.

There is a wealth of useful information on the vendor's web site, www.LIUtilities.com, including "white papers" on memory leakage, tracking DLLs, spyware detection and removal, system security and CPU tracking, and finding viruses and Trojans. In addition, there are links to numerous well-written 2002 reviews of the software that give high marks to WinTasks 4 Professional and are worth looking at. These include PC Magazine (June 11, by Edward Mendelson), IT World.com (August 16, by Jim Pile), TechWeenies.com (by Mark Oberg), Geek.com (March 19, by Amy R. Zunk, a systems administrator), and OnePC.net (March 14, by Christopher Wong).

In my review, I downloaded the Zip file for WinTasks 4.21 Professional from the vendor's web site, decompressed the file, ran setup, and followed the on-screen instructions. Installation on my 500 MHz Dell Dimensions computer using a partition with the Windows XP Professional operating system was quick and without problems. System requirements are Windows 98, NT, 2000, or XP, plus a 200 MHz (or faster) CPU, and 10 MB free hard drive space.

The program can be run like any other (when you need it) or started with Windows (the default setting) and run in the background. The latter is by far the more useful if you need to monitor CPU or memory usage for individual processes or overall. Occupying a megabyte plus of hard drive space (including a 20-page PDF user manual, the running program occupies only 5 MB of memory.

Over the course of a month, I was able to exercise most of WinTasks features. One notable exception was the built-in script language, which can be used to create new functions and automate changing processes or resource allocations if a condition set by the user is met. Programmers will love this tool!

When you open WinTasks, the main window displays a printable list of all running processes (i.e., executable programs) along with their full paths, date/time started, CPU priority and usage, memory usage, and number of "threads" (i.e., objects within a process that run program instructions). Both WinTasks and Windows Program Manager displayed 39 processes for me, a comforting consistency! However, WinTasks makes an effort to identify each process's name or display the program's icon and give a brief function description rather than just the .exe file name. For my system, that turned out to be 22 of 39, a bit of a disappointment.

For each process, you can open a Modules window that shows a printable list of all of the associated DLL and driver files along with their full paths. This can be very insightful if you need to know the commonality of DLL usage by your programs. Have you ever been troubled when trying to uninstall a program and "asked" to decide if it's safe to delete certain DLLs, which also may be used by your other programs? Most of us take the chicken-way out and keep these DLLs, allowing the accumulation of unneeded files on our hard drive. WinTasks gives you the visibility to see which files can be safely removed.

Another useful feature is the Autostart subwindow. Here you can see a list of all programs, which start automatically on bootup or reboot. Included are each file's name, path, and parameters. If your computer is taking more time to start than it used to, here is a good place to start streamlining; and you can temporarily disable programs from automatically starting on boot (to make sure no harm is being done) before having WinTasks remove the boot startup entry in Windows' Registry. I was able to remove 5 of 15 startups, which weren't needed! However, in all fairness, I think that Windows System Configuration Utility (msconfig.exe) is more capable in this regard, especially for the advanced user who is capable of safely modifying the three .ini files.

I wont go into other details since they are well described in the aforementioned references. I did find the program educational, useful, and fun to use from the perspective of an "intermediate" computerist. It is recommended based on the caveats mentioned in this review.

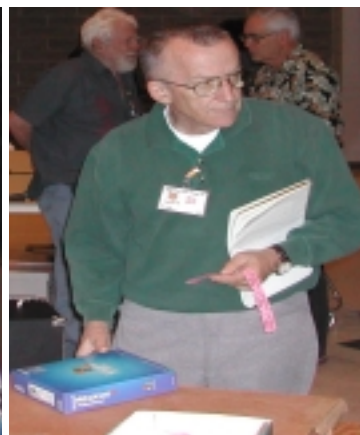Two versions of WinTasks are available, Standard (MSRP is

**Jim Morrison
Presenting Adobe Photo Shop 7
at the January Main Meeting,
gives Herb Wong a photo
 makeover**

Vance Yokum and Bill Myatt address the Main Meeting during random access

You know who Graham is.....
Because he's wearing his badge!

The raffle prizes

The raffle winners

$17) and Professional (MSRP is $47). Only the latter was reviewed here. Occasionally, the vendor offers Professional at a $10 discount. Boxed copies with a CD and printed manual also are available. ∎

ArtIcons Pro Version 3.24

By Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

ArtIcons Pro is a powerful utility for creating and editing icons and managing icon libraries. What is ArtIcons Pro needed for? You can create icons using the Paint applet included with Windows, but its scope is limited. You can create detailed icons using ArtIcons Pro and not have to buy a high-priced photo editing or drawing program. If you frequently access a file and want it on your desktop, you can use ArtIcons Pro to create a custom icon for it. Similarly, you can create icons for software or custom applications you have written.

Installation

Downloading the software didn't take too long even with a 56K modem; the ZIP file for ArtIcons Pro is only 1 MB. Installation was accomplished easily though I installed it to a partition I use only for applications; that is not the normal Program Files folder. An interesting feature is that the software can be set for one of seven languages.

Editing features

The major feature of ArtIcons Pro is that you can create and edit icons in standard or custom sizes and in color depths of up to 16 million colors. You can import, edit and paste images into icons using several standard graphics file formats including ICO, BMP and JPEG. Similarly, you can export icon images to several formats as well. Many type of effects that are common to photo editing, drawing or presentation software, such as gradient and chess fill, drop shadow, grayscale, rotate, roll and mirror can be applied to icons. Some effects are extremely configurable and impressive. There are 16 levels of undo, but deletion, copying and creation of icons or images can't be reversed.

While the capability of ArtIcons Pro is high, once you start importing images, it is not easy to use. Despite a lot of effort, I could not find the opacity sliders for the foreground and background colors. I could not determine how the software uses "transparency" settings to aid in importing and placing images into icons. The Import Image window shows about 400 x 300 pixels of an image; there is no way to view the entire image before selecting some or all of it for your icon. An explanation of the differences between "Import Image" and "Add Image(s)" would also have been useful.

The help files are satisfactory, but the software really needs a tutorial, a step-by-step procedure, on how to use the more advanced features. Some help files show an icon to click on but do not name it. For example, an eyedropper is shown, but its name, Color Picker, is not included. The icon is not easily recognizable when printed at 300 dpi on a monochrome laser printer. I would also have appreciated a short tutorial on the nature of icons in Windows 9x and ME. Several icons I used as test objects had several formats. Those used for the taskbar and start menus are small; 16x16 pixel icons using sixteen colors, whereas on the desktop they may be 32x32 pixels using 256 colors. More information is provided on the new requirements and capabilities of icons for Windows XP.

Library Management Features

A major aspect of ArtIcons Pro is management of icon libraries. This can be a useful way to group icons together for a specific project. You can gather all the icons from files and folders on your system into one or more libraries. Initially, I tried to import all the icons on my C: drive into a library. ArtIcons Pro found over 2,000 icons and needed to create a second library. The maximum number of icons in a library defaults to 1,600, but can be increased to 16,000. Of course, the more items in a file, the more difficult it is to manage. Eventually, I picked a few random icons of different styles and level of details to experiment upon.

While you can sort the icons within a library several ways and remove duplicates, ArtIcons Pro did not detect all duplicate icons in my initial test. It also was not clear what some sort options, such as "Name as Number" actually do. You can actually have many icons within a library with the same name or number.

Hints

If you do choose to try ArtIcons Pro, here are two hints. 1) Go to the Windows' Display Properties, on the Effects tab and check the box that says "Show icons using all possible colors." That way, you will be able to see the results of your work. 2) Remember to save both the icon you have modified and the icon library before exiting the library or the software.

Aha-soft's Web Site

The impressive Aha-soft web site has lots of good information about ArtIcons Pro. They have many free icon libraries available for downloading; Arrows, Flowers, Nature, Earth, Flags, Hardware, Hard disks, Help, Keys, and Multimedia are just a few of the icon collections available. They have a list of Windows 98 files that contain icons. For example, PROGMAN.EXE has 46 icons, that can be imported, into an icon library. Hopefully, Aha-soft will soon put Windows 2000, NT and XP icon files on their web site.

Conclusion

ArtIcons Pro is excellent for managing icon libraries and producing icons that are basically drawings, which covers a lot of ground. It is not as capable at creating icons based on photographs or similar images, but it is certainly a good value if you regularly need to create icons of any type.

Requirements

ArtIcons Pro requires a Pentium-133 MHz CPU, 16MB of RAM, 2MB of hard disk space, true (32-bit) color and can operate under Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000 and XP. It is available as trial software via download at www.aha-soft.com and can be purchased there for $29.95. ∎

Stuffit 7.5

a Multi-platform

Compression Program

By John Donan, NOCCC

I received this reply to one of my Emails, "I received your Email today, it took so long that I thought something was wrong with my computer......... " on the same day I obtained Stuffit 7.5 Deluxe. Quite a coincidence. On the Stuffit box it says, "Send and receive files on the internet or across the network, fast! Stuffit shrinks files up to 98% so they get there quickly. And, it's easy to just Stuffit. Simply drag and drop to create compressed files that will open automatically." (There is another mention that Stuffit's .SIT format results in 20 percent smaller files than the .zip format.) I decided to base my review on these capabilities.

This program was developed by a 15 year old schoolboy Raymond Lau in 1987 (now Raymond Lau PhD, MIT) . It became available for the Macintosh in 1988. In May, 1989 Lau turned over the marketing rights to the entire Stuffit family to Aladdin Systems Inc. Its SIT files became the compression program for the Mac. In 1995, Aladdin released some elements for Windows as freeware and shareware. The current version, 7.5, was designed for Windows XP with the capability to also run on Pentium-class computers running Windows 98/ME/NT/ 2000. Versions of Stuffit will also work with Linux, Solaris and Macintosh, making files compatible to all. Stuffit also supports other compression formats. It not only supports creation and expansion of the ubiquitous .ZIP archives, but it also gives you a choice of as many as ten other compression formats.

Today it is considered the complete compression program in that it can traverse the platforms of Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris. Should you want to send me a SIT file from your Macintosh, I can handle it on Windows. You can set any of the supported compression types as your default, and, for some file types, you can manually set the level of compression. Stuffit Expander, the program that will expand and decode the files you download is available free from Aladdin in the same fashion as Acrobat is available from Adobe.

Because of the variations of the content possible for individual files, regarding patterns and repetitions, I realize that my results will only provide a "feel" for the program's compression capabilities rather than any scientifically predictable criteria. I started my indoctrination here by making sample compressions of a variety of file types and sizes. I then made three nine-file sets, two were graphics (based on a 5.4 MB TIF file) and one was text. Each of these was organized to have successive files doubled in size so that the largest of each set was 256 times larger than the smallest. One of the graphics sets was created by reducing the resolution of the largest image, the other set was made by cropping down the central area of the scene in a telescopic fashion, keeping the resolution constant.

To create a similar set of text files I went to Word Pad where I have maintained a large amount of information as .DOC files. From these I created a single 1.165MB file by concatenating three of my largest files. This file had a wide variety of fonts, font sizes, color, italicizing etc. To make a set of differing sizes I successively deleted large blocks of the text. The smallest of this nine member set was 18KB.

I then compressed the files as SIT and ZIP archives, with and without self extraction.

With this accumulation of data I looked for a pattern among the self extracting files and found it. There is a constant increase of 80KB to make an archived file self extracting whether it be SIT or ZIP. i.e. a 100 KB compressed file would become a 180KB .exe file. This means that a file which had an 80% compression that would reduce it from 100KB to 20 KB, if then converted to a self-extracting file (.EXE), it would grow back by 80KB to its original 100KB size with nothing gained. I limited all my other comparisons to files greater than 100KB.

When I compared the two modes of compression for the set of text files, it was nearly a wash, some compressed to the same size, the rest were nearly equal, never differing by more than 3KB, regardless of which one was larger. There was a slight edge toward the SIT files. The compression varied between 65% to 75% averaging around 70%. If a file SIT compressed by 70% the ZIP compression would never be less than 67% . This is different from the figures above which cited 98% and 20%(obviously relate to some other class of files.)

 ZIP compression of my 24 bit RGB TIF files, which were derived from a photograph, ranged from only 25% to 40%. The SIT compressions, for the same files, averaged around 58% (the largest file, not in this average, compressed by 70%.) Eliminating the larger file, SIT compression was 18 to 23% better than ZIP (an average difference of 20%.)

The program requires 28MB of disk space but it wouldn't load on my Windows 2000 system. I did my evaluation on my slower (166MHz) Windows 98 machine having 256 MB of RAM and about 1.8 GB of unused disk space. I was able to try some of the dragging a file to an icon (Expander) which resulted in Stuffit Deluxe opening and showing a representation of this dragged file as opened. Double click on this and MS Word. appeared with the opened file available to

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 are the following **software programs**:

Microsoft Office XP Professional – The office suite that leads the pack.

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

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

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.

ViraLock – The first software that prevents the spread of e-mail-borne viruses by preventing them from escaping an infected computer. It is complementary to current anti-virus programs.

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.

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.

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

Microsoft's Picture It! Digital Image Pro 7.0 – Import photos from a digital camera, scanner, Web site, hard drive, etc. and use advanced editng tools to deliver professional results and achieve masterful final results.

VicMan's Photo Editor Pro 7.0 – An inexpensive versatile image editor from Russia with intuitive skin interface that comes with a range of essential features for both novices and professional designers.

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

Currently available are the following **books**:

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

Windows XP Home Edition: The Missing Manual – An excellent book by David Pogue for intermediate & 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.

If you would like me to try to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please contact me by phone or e-mail:

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

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:

1. What is the product's stated purpose and does it meet it?

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

3. What are its major features?

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

5. Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?

The following list contains more specific questions that apply to either software or hardware:

1. Requirements:

1. Operating systems?

2. Windows?

3. Memory?

4. Disk space?

5. Is a Mouse supported?

2. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

1. Was it difficult?

2. Copy or write protected?

3. Does it allow drive and directory selection?

4. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

3. Information about your system:

1. Hardware?

2. Operating system? Version?

3. Memory?

4. Video display?

4. Documentation:

1. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?

2. Was it clear, concise and helpful?

3. Is there a troubleshooting section?

5. Product Support:

1. How is the vendor's tech support?

2. Does it cost anything?

3. Is it a toll call?

4. Does the vendor provide Internet support?

6. About the product:

1. What comes with the product?

2. What is the cost? (list & street)

3. Version number and release date?

4. How difficult is the learning curve?

5. Would you buy/use the product?

6. Do you recommend it?

7. What don't you like about it?

8. What improvements or changes would you like to see?

9. Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?

10. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

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

Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals. We request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that's reviewed. An expensive software package ($300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program ($50 or less) might have 500 words. Reviews must be completed within 2 months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him (714)779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org Or just give the file

on disk and printout directly to Alan Pearlman (President), Jim Sanders (Publications Chm.), or Ted Littman on the next meeting day. If you e-mail your review, please send a copy to TedLit@Adelphia.net.

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

All documents should have flush left margins, and double carriage returns (skip a line) between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! We usually have to delete and retype them, which can be a lot of work. CAPS are reserved for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word. We will add the underlining in PageMaker.

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

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

General Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC

In January, our very own member, Jim Morrison, gave us a fascinating presentation on one of the most powerful photo editing packages on the market – Adobe PhotoShop.

The meeting was opened by President Alan Pearlman. A great number of raffle prizes were won by our members this month – including a copy of Windows XP Pro Edition, Microsoft's Picture It Pro, Adobe PhotoShop Elements, Que's *Using Office 2000* (a thick volume) and more.

Cathy Grammer-Margolin announced that *V Communications* had just acquired Ontrack Inc. and is now selling their popular products like *Power Desk Pro 5* and *System Commander*. Their website is www.v-com.com. She also announced a helpful, grassroots website that provides great information on CD and DVD technology – www.vcdhelp.com.

She mentioned that the club has acquired a 21 inch monitor for the February raffle/auction and advised us not to miss the next meeting.

After some Random Access, Cathy introduced Jim Morrison. Jim has been a long-time member of NOCCC, used to be a schoolteacher and is now retired. He now teaches PhotoShop and Business Math at Rancho Santiago College. So we were VERY LUCKY to have such a competent and personable presenter.

Jim announced that he was demonstrating the latest version of Adobe PhotoShop – 7 ($600 retail or $100 - $150 upgrade). In the course of his presentation, he showed us a great number of the multitude of features available in PhotoShop. Yet, with everything he showed us, he did not even cover a tenth of the product's total capability, as it is so powerful and flexible.

The features Jim had demonstrated included the following:

● The *healing* brush, which he used to remove wrinkles from a photo of an old man. The man's face looked years younger in the process.

● The *lasso* tool, used to select and edit a section of a picture.

● The great number of brush types and sizes at your disposal. At one point, Jim was filling a picture with stars by using the star brush.

● The use of *layers* in PhotoShop to section off specific portions of pictures for editing. They can also be used to back out changes and compare changes to the original picture.

● The great number of *undo* levels. In fact, several changes can be undone with a single keystroke (Ctrl-Alt-z). (Jim pointed out that undo history disappears once a file is closed, however.)

● The *bucket*, which fills a section of a photo or graphic with a specific color.

● Use of layers to produce a margin inside a graphic drawing. To demonstrate this, Jim used the star brush to paint a graphic of stars. He created a new drawing window. Then he created a smaller rectangular layer inside that window, which represented a margin. When he painted inside that layer with his star brush, the stars would appear only within the 'margin' – the smaller layer – even if he moved the brush outside that layer. He also demonstrated how he could reverse the effect and paint only in the layer outside the margin. New stars appeared outside the margin but still inside the graphic window. In both cases, inside and outside the margin, Jim's brush was limited only to the chosen section by the rectangular margin layer. Then, Jim warned that the use of layers can get confusing and if we decide to use them, we should always keep track of the current layer we are editing.

● Various features for selecting objects within a photo. These included the following:

● *Subtraction* of parts of a selection. This enables the user to select a wide range of objects, then tailor his/her selection by unselecting some of the objects.

● *Hiding* of selections, so that their boundary lines are invisible, although they are still in effect and you are still limited to editing inside the invisible lines.

● *Saving* of selections for use again in the future. With this feature, you can literally close PhotoShop, run it again later, re-open your photo file and still use the same selection criteria you had established in the previous session. (This helps when you make complex selections that take time to set up.)

● *Removal* of all but the selection. This allows you to remove the clutter from your screen so you can focus on nothing but the selection. Of course, the rest of the picture is still there – it's just not visible.

● Color brightness features, including the following:

● The *dodge* tool, used to brighten and clear up pictures darkened by under-exposure.

● The *level* tool, which can brighten or darken a picture's color using a slide bar.

● The *eyedropper* tool, which can be pointed to specific portions of pictures to brighten or darken their color. (A slide bar indicates how much the colors will be brightened or darkened.)

· *Auto-contrast*, which automatically adjusts color brightness in a picture. (This didn't work as well as manual adjustments of slide bars.)

● Powerful *text editing* features.

Jim first typed the word FONT, capitalized in a huge size. He then took a beautiful picture of a mountain. It had been taken at an angle and he wanted to straighten it out. He did so by using the *rotation* tool to slightly tilt the picture. Then he used the *cropping* tool to cut the edges of the picture so it was a straight rectangle and no longer appeared tilted. Finally, he performed a copy on the picture. Instead of pasting, he used *paste into* and put the picture into the lettering of the word FONT. The letters then became a fancy window through which we saw the mountain. Thus, he not only demonstrated a slick text feature, but he also showed us the cropping and rotation tools in the process.

Toward the end, Jim demonstrated how to put a picture on the face of a clock. He first took a plain pre-made clock face – basically a circular white graphic with the numbers of a clock all around it. Then he took an amusing picture of George Margolin in a doctor's outfit. He copied and pasted the picture on the clock face and enlarged it to completely fill the clock. Then he cropped the edges so that they did not extend outside the clock. Thus, he created a clock with George's picture, suitable for printing out on a color printer and pasting on a real clock to produce a custom clock face.

The audience was amazed at Jim's demonstration and gave him a great round of applause at the end. ■

New Technology

By Cathy Grammer Margolin, NOCCC

It was Photo Editing Day at NOCCC, with Cathy Grammer-Margolin presenting a quick overview of many levels of programs to use with that new digital camera you got for Christmas.

First off, I showed my favorite

"Utility that Windows Forgot" called PowerDesk (originally by Mijenix, then OnTrack, now V-com). It is like the old File Manager, or Xtree, that allows you to look at two folders at the same time and drag and drop files or folders, map network drives, format a floppy, look at zip archives, etc. And it is FREE at:

http://www.v-com.com/product/pd_free_trial.html . You get a window when you close that tells about the product. If you want to buy it, it is $29.95 for more features. I download this to all my clients computers, so they can easily see how the folders are organized.

Photo Tools

First off, try the software that came with your camera to do simple things like brightness, contrast or cropping. It is free.

There are three levels of photo manipulation tools:

1. Quick Fix, Novice, Easy which are programs like Jasc AfterShot, Photodex CompuPic Pro, ACDSee, Roxio (formerly MGI) Photosuite. These allow changing brightness, contrast, crop and resize (to shorten the e-mail time). They all have many more features. I showed the audience AfterShot (formerly Image Expert), Compupic Pro and ACDSee. Price points are about $40-$70.

2. Intermediate which are programs that let you do more involved photo editing such as getting rid of items in the picture, get rid of backgrounds, add fancier text such as talking bubbles out of a person's mouth. This would include Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 and Microsoft Picture It Digital Image Pro. Price points are about $60-$100. Don't forget to watch the Sunday paper ads for discounts and rebates.

3. Advanced which are programs that allow you to do everything under the sun, but have a larger learning curve and price, such as Adobe Photoshop 7 (the topic of our main meeting). Price about $600.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0

I then showed the audience Photoshop Elements new version 2. It

has a lot of wizards that help you to understand it and even let you "Click here to do it." It is a lighter version of Photoshop with many of the features and more help to get up and running quickly. It also is much cheaper than Photoshop as it runs from cost $63-100 ($30 rebate for upgrade from almost any photo editing program). It takes out red eye, changes backgrounds, adds text and talking bubbles, allows you to crop, resize, take out objects you don't want (when I did regular photography , we always wanted that "Telephone Pole Filter"!.) With programs like this we can be more creative and less perfectionist about getting just the right photo, because this is the "Digital Darkroom" where many flaws can be corrected.

Elements works on layers just as Photoshop does. The first thing to do when you open a picture (as also in Photoshop) is to duplicate the layer. That way you can go back to the original if you got too creative on the duplicated layer. This is the hint that I learned the hard way!

For the price, Elements has a lot of features, especially if you want to eventually learn Photoshop, this is the way to go. ■

Computer Aided Investment (CAI) SIG

by Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

The January meeting of the CAI SIG started off with a discussion of the past month's market performance and what to expect near term. The Santa Claus year end rally was no more than a one day event, and had no impact since the market had dwindled downward most of December. Since our Nov. meeting, the

CAI SIG, continued from page 21 market dropped 289 points which was the opposite direction of our members' consensus. A review of charts and indicators did not show any hard evidence that we were heading upward in 2003.

The long term picture still shows a downtrend that has not been broken. Possibilities of a short term rally in January offer hope, and that could signal a good market for several months until mid year.

So where do you put your money? The benchmark returns of money markets average around 1.2%. Stock funds and market indexes for the past year show negative returns. Mutual funds have seen positive returns in selected areas such as bond funds ranging 4 - 6%, real estate (REITS) 2.7%, and precious metals 8.2% for the year. Sustained growth for individual stocks is much harder to find in this market.

Stock Selection

We continued discussing stock selection this meeting. Using a ZigZag indicator we reviewed several stocks to look at their good and bad periods, and what would be a good trade with reasonable risk/reward. One needs a trading plan to decide when is the beginning of a good period so you can make a buy decision, etc., and an exit strategy. But how do you find that list of stocks that have the best good periods? The most potential? This makes the case for having a good method for stock selection. The timing of your trades is secondary to selection.

I presented The Stock Investor Professional from AAII which is a stock selection system that includes a database of more than 8500 stocks updated weekly and tracks over 2500 fields of data for each company in the database. Using a fundamental approach that looks at a company's profits, sales, debt, market statistics, etc., AAII has developed over 40 screens that represent stock picking strategies of prominent investors and popular investment approaches, and publishes their performance on the AAII website. We picked 4 of the top performers, looked at the criteria used and the stocks passing the screens. These screens made up 4 portfolios that were updated weekly or monthly by a re-run of the screen and selling stocks that were no longer selected and adding newly selected stocks. These portfolios had a cumulative return for the past 5 years of 300 - 350%. For the investor who believes in fundamentals, this would be a good approach.

Comparing the 4 portfolios with the lists made using technical methods, we found several stocks in common, which would indicate that some good stocks can be found using fundamental or technical methods.

In February, we will look at MetaStock's capabilities for stock screening and stock evaluation as a method for building a watch list for trading, and continue discussions about Stock Investor Pro. ∎

Computer security SIG

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

In the January meeting, we went over three different issues: Palladium, a flaw in Yahoo, and Zone Alarm.

Palladium is a security system by Microsoft that is due out in a couple of years (about 2004 or 2005 according to Microsoft). It is unique because it requires special hardware. This has caused some people to claim it is an attempt by Microsoft to ignore industry standards and help monopolize the industry. Microsoft makes claims that it will allow people to control data even after it has left the computer. Both claims sounds a little over done to me, so I plan to wait until the dust settles before I make any decisions.

There is a flaw in Yahoo that spammers have started using (abusing?) to get around spam filters and parental controls. Basically, they allowed others to use the Yahoo site to redirect Internet traffic to another web site. Spammers were then using that capability to confuse spam filters by making a URL look like it was going to a Yahoo site, when it was going somewhere else. For example: the URL http://rd.yahoo.com/dhdhdhd/*http://www.whitehouse.com might look like a yahoo service, yet it actually would end up going to a porn site (I think, I haven't tried it yet).

Then we looked at some screen shots of Zone Alarm Pro (ZAP) 3.1 and went over the differences between recent versions. They have made tremendous changes in the last few months. In October, I purchased version 3.1 to get some of their new ad-blocking and cookie controls. A month later, Zone Labs came-out with an even newer version that includes filtering capabilities.

Next month, we'll be looking at some common network traffic sniffers (protocol analyzers) and an updated list of important online security tests.∎

Genealogy SIG

by John Johnson, NOCCC

Jim Peugh led us to his web site to look at the very large PDF file he has put up for his family tree that dates back to at least 600 B.C. This is an extremely large file that requires a high speed connection. It took a few minutes to download the file. The web address is

Peugh.com/docs/wales2.pdf.

We also tried looking up some Native American heritage. One of the problems that may be encountered is the aversion some people had to being listed. There was a fear of being confined to a certain area.

Next month, I will be talking about Family Tree Maker Version 10.

The meeting ended at 4:00 p.m. Please bring your questions to next month's meeting.

Office Suites

By John Heenan, NOCCC
jc_heenan@a-wares.com

GETTING PICTURES INTO POWERPOINT SLIDES

We started the meeting discussing the first item in January's issue of the Office Tip Sheet. The topic was probably most appropriate for those who may have received a digital camera for Christmas. It included Visual Basic macro that would automatically insert JPG pictures from an assigned folder into separate slides in a PowerPoint presentation. The code can be changed for differences in the location of the folder containing your pictures, or in the file type(extension), or of the size of the incoming picture. The OTS article described how to copy the VB code into the VB Editor and how to run it. If you did not get a copy of OTS, you might find it at www.a-wares.com/ots/tips.htm. Search for the above topic and click the hyperlink attached to the issue number 4.01.

ORDER ENTRY APPLICATION IN ACCESS

In past lessons, we exported contacts from Outlook to an Access mdb type file that is linked into our Order entry application. We want to take the information from these Outlook contacts and import them to the Customer table in our application. But before we create this Append query that would post selected records, there is a change that must be made to the primary key that relates the Customer and Order tables.

RELATIONSHIPS AND THE PRIMARY KEY

The Customer table contains a primary key that is Autonumber type. This means that as each Customer is added to the table it gets an assigned number in sequence starting with "1". We want to use the account number that has been assigned in Outlook as the primary key. This will ensure that the Customer will always retain the same key each time the Outlook Contacts are imported to the application. First, unhook the relationship between the Customer and Order tables. Then open the Customer table in design mode and change the type of the Customer ID from Autonumber to Text and resize the field to suit the size of the Contact Account Number. Likewise, open the Order table and change the Customer ID from Number to Text. Re-link the Customer and Order tables in the Relationships diagram and in the Edit Relationships dialog check the "Enforce Referential Integrity" and set the Join Type to "1" Now, we are ready to add records to out Customer table.

SELECT QUERIES

With the Contacts and the Customer tables open we can see the information that we have in the Contacts table and what information we need to fill the Customer table. Switch to the Database window and select Queries, and New, and Design View. Select Contacts in the Show Tables list. From our review of the Customer table, we need the following fields from the Contacts: Account will become the Customer ID, Company, FirstName, LastName, BusinessStreet, BusinessCity, BusinessState, BusinessPostalCode, BusinessCountry, BusinessPhone, AssistantsPhone, BusinessFax. Each of these items can be added to the query by double clicking each item or dragging each item from the field list to the design grid. Clicking the view button, we can see the results of our query.

Then somebody said "Lunch"

'Til next time 2/2/03

We will review relationships and the making a Select Query that leads to creating our Customer table. We will add a Criteria to select OL Contacts that contain account numbers, and sort by company name .

We will convert the Select query to an Append query and create a table of Customers suitable for the application.

With a Product table and a Customer table, we can now create our first order.■

AutoCAD Special Interest Group

by Joe Mizer. NOCCC

This group is focused on the use of Autodesk drawing products which include AutoCAD 2000, AutoCAD Mechanical Desktop 5.3 or 6.0 and Inventor 5. Everyone is welcome to attend and sit through our presentations or ask specific questions on matters you are having trouble with. We set up two computers at each meeting to give demonstrations and for practice during the meeting. The major focus will be on mastering Inventor software in the future. We will give demonstrations on how to make solid models including sheet metal and then we will turn these into finished drawings that are ready to give to a manufacturing facility for fabrication.. This software is extremely easy to use and allows professional results with a minimum of effort. The next meeting is on Ground Hog day, let's hope for a short winter. ■

PC Q&A SIG

by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

The intended topic for this months SIG was the quality of CD-R and DVD-R media. That plan got a bit sidetracked when a number of people wanted to

United We Stand

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
Games - for PC & Mac	Wilkinson	221	2:30	Claire Lemire	NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net	714-740-1058
Genealogy	Irvine Hall	—–	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Hardware Essentials	Science	111	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
OS/2	Science	203	2:30	Terry Warren	twarren@alumni.caltech.edu	714-663-5467
PALM O/S PDA's	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
PIG SIG (Lunch)	Cafeteria	—–	12:00	N/A	N/A	N/A
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 .. QBQ@UIA.NET 909-949-4930

Opportunity

** *Special 1 day class,* *Basic HTML Webpages* *using Notepad,* 9:30, 11:15, 2:30 Science 306

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, 200
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.

be worked on.

My major complaint is that there should be tutorial documentation included. If you want the capability of greater compression the price is right. The Deluxe version, at Aladdin's Web page www.aladdinsys.com/store/.html, is priced at $39.99 and for those with earlier versions of Stuffit, an upgrade sells for $9.99. ∎

PC Q&A SIG

discuss the Segway and my impressions of the unit that I got to take a test ride on at Comdex. Someone in the audience asked if I knew about the 3 different models of the Segway. I admitted that so far as I knew there was only one model. It turns out that the Segway website talks about two models. One model is described as optimized for range and terrain and the other for cargo carrying. The industrial model that he referred to was not found by me. The specifications for the other two reaffirms my opinion that there is one model with an option for cargo baskets. Still, a neat, fun, too expensive for my wallet, impressive machine for getting around on. See: www.segway.com. A related product from Mr. Kamen is the iBot 3000 wheel chair. This is another impressive device that, if you need a wheelchair, is probably the ultimate unit almost available today. Some demo movies are available at: http://www.dynopower.freeserve.co.uk/homepages/newchair.htm, or go to the company website: http://www.independencenow.com/ibot/index.html.

When we got back to the original plan, a number of points were made about the quality of media. First, a recognized brand name is probably going to have better quality consistently. Second, even a internationally known brand name like Sony, doesn't necessarily mean that the media is made by them. On the one hand, you don't really care. Sony, or any comparable company, is not real likely to put out junk with their name on the label. You may get media that is just as good as the name brand even if you have never heard of the XYZ brand of CDs. They might be made at the same factory as the name brand. The gotcha to that train of thought is that any given factory might also make several different quality grades of media. On the plus side, the current crop of burners seems to be able to deal with a much wider range of media types and grades, much more successfully than the older models. A site that I recommend going to is: http://www.cdmediaworld.com. This site has a number of pages that do a pretty good job of explaining the differences that exist between media that uses the different dyes. Between the information that is on this site and the many links to other sites, you can probably learn more about the subject than you care about.

I enquired of those present if they had any particular topic on which they would like to have me do a presentation. After several entreaties for a response, I asked if they were OK with taking whatever struck my fancy as a topic to talk about.

There were several responses that more or less sounded like an affirmative, so I guess that is what I will do.∎

Tobi-on-the-Run

By Cathy Shimozono, NOCCC

If you like Lode Runner, you will love Tobi-on-the-Run, or so the ad reads. Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to play Lode Runner so I can't attest or refute this claim. I can say I found this to be a most delightful and enjoyable game.

Tobi runs through a maze collecting donuts that resemble gold rings. When he collects all of them, he has to get to the 'goal' platform to advance to the next level. Sounds easy, right? Well, Tobi must keep away from the bullies (different numbers on different levels) while collecting donuts. This gets a bit tricky but you can slow down the bullies by digging holes for them to fall into. It takes a few seconds for them to climb out giving Tobi time to make his get-away.

On some levels the bullies steal the donuts and the only way to get them back is to make the bullies fall into a hole. When they fall, they throw up the donut and Tobi can easily pick it up. There are ladders to climb, poles to shinny up and down, bars to cross hand-over-hand, and sometimes you must dig a tunnel to retrieve a trapped donut. Tobi can fall any distance and he won't be killed, but let any bully touch him and Tobi's angel rises to heaven to the accompaniment of Taps. That is really a funny sight.

The sound effects and the 3D graphics are very good although Tobi (and the nasty bullies) is a bit small. The mazes get consistently harder the higher the level. There are 100 levels but you can download different sets of mazes for more fun. What makes it even more enjoyable is that each maze is a little different from the previous mazes. There are three skill levels of play that make the perfect game for adults and children.

By the way, if you have a Microsoft key on your keyboard, you have an emergency exit to Windows. This is wonderful if your boss walks in unexpectedly and while it is in down mode the game is paused. A simple click on the task bar will bring back the game to the exact place you left. I feel I must give a strong word of caution. Tobi On The Run is very addicting and extremely habit forming: :o)

Tobi-on-the-Run is from Mad Data and will run on Windows 95 and above. It is available for a free demo download or for purchase by download from www.tobi-on-the-run.com/index.html. I suggest you start with the demo until you become comfortable with the game. The demo even has an extra set of mazes for download too. This game costs ($14.98) and is well worth the money. ∎

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
Orange CA 92857

Address Service Requested

Members:
Your expiration month and year
appear on your mailing label.
Please renew promptly, using
the application inside.

Dated Material - Please Expedite