

# **orange Bytes**

Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 28 • No 8

AUGUST 2003

## **NOCCC MEETINGS - August 10**

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*  
**NEW TECHNOLOGIES**  
Herb Wong

Buying and Using Laptop Computers

*See Page 4 for details*

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*  
**MAIN MEETING**  
Patrick Crispen

Advanced Google techniques

*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*  
**Visual Programming II** ..... *Science 109*  
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

### **9:30 a.m.**

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES** ..... *Irvine Hall*  
*See box above*  
**Computer Aided Investing** ..... *Wilkinson 221*  
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software  
**Hardware Essentials** ..... *Irvine Hall*  
Buying and Using Laptop Computers.....  
**Intermediate Linux** ..... *Wilkinson 210*  
Linux for administrators or programmers

### **10:00 a.m.**

**Linux for Server Administrators** ..... *Wilkinson 210*  
**Visual Programming III** ..... *Science 109*  
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

### **11:15 a.m.**

**Computer Security** ..... *Science 203*  
*main access control models*

**Linux Programming Concepts** ..... *Wilkinson 210*  
**Macintosh** ..... *Wilkinson 221*  
**Office Suites** ..... *Science 111*  
Access - and Order Entry application  
**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.**

**Digital Photography** ..... *Irvine Hall*  
**PC/Mac Games** ..... *Wilkinson 221*  
Exploring Mac/PC games. Bring your friends! :-)  
**Genealogy** ..... *Science 111*  
Discover your family history with modern tools  
**Hardware Essentials** ..... *Science 109*  
Buying and Using Laptop Computers.....  
**OS/2 News and Installation** ..... *Science 203*  
**Palms O/S PDA's** ..... *Wilkinson 111*  
*The SIG will not meet this month. Next meeting in Sept.*

**NOCCC web site:**  
<http://www.noccc.org>

**Future Meetings**  
Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

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“Friends Helping Friends”



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following:

**Circulation** — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

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

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

## President's Message

Don't forget the NOCCC meeting is August 10th, and the Pool party is August 3rd!

If you were not at our July meeting, you missed a well-attended How to Hook up your Wireless, a demo by one of our members Joe Vezeau and Ted Turner, of Turner Networking Systems. They went over security for wireless also. It was fun seeing some of our members sitting at their computers surfing the Internet via wireless! And of course, it was fun doing the Ebay Hints and Tips presentation at the New Technology SIG. The Digital Photo SIG seems to be taking off in the 2:30 slot in Irvine Hall.

Both the newsletter by Jim Sanders, editor, and NOCCC website by Jim Peugh, webmaster, have been entered in the Southwest User Group Conference contest in August. Cross our fingers for another set of awards! Both are really looking very professional and reflect the leadership of these two people, Jim and Jim. And no, your name does not have to be "Jim" to help out! We need volunteers to help the committee that posts the Bytes to the website, Help Line volunteers in subjects like Microsoft Access, Internet, Email, and help for the public relations committee lead by Else Olovsson. And of course, if you have an idea for a new SIG or a main meeting topic, let me know!

The annual NOCCC Pool Party will be Sunday, August 3rd (our normal time, due to the typical August scheduling problems, NOCCC meets on August 10) at the Margolin's about 2pm. Bring a dish to share (hamburgers and hot dogs provided) and bring the family. Email me at [inventor00@pobox.com](mailto:inventor00@pobox.com) to let us know you are coming!

One sad note- no more bread. Gerry Resch has been getting bread for the food charities and what was left over, wondered over to NOCCC. The bread manufacturer has been sold and they only give bread to one large food bank now. So, no more bread. But Alan Pearlman decided we had to have food, so he brought hot dogs for this summer's meetings. I must admit that they went very fast! He will also bring them for the August 10th meeting.

The Board of Directors is working on some new ideas, so keep tuned in! And if you have ideas for NOCCC, let me know!

Our August 10th Main meeting speaker is Patrick Crispen, co-author the Internet Tourbus, ([www.tourbus.com](http://www.tourbus.com)) an online free email newsletter published twice a week, and read by about 100,000 people in 130 countries around the globe. They explain Internet technology in plain English, with a dash of humor. Since 1995, Tourbus riders have been getting the scoop on Search Engines, Spam, Viruses, Cookies, Urban Legends, and other topics. Patrick works at CSU Fullerton, and will also go over advanced Goggle searching! He is a very engaging speaker, so don't miss this one!

Cathy Margolin



## Membership Benefits

### Member Discounts and Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts, offers, as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat- we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members).

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

**CompuUSA Discount- Fountain Valley Only** One of our members, Joe Vezeau, Corporate Sales, has offered NOCCC members a discount. You have to call Joe and he will see if there is any discount available (some products are below cost and he cannot do anything) on the product you want. 714-965-4236 for Joe Vazeau).

**Free Virus Checker** IT professionals can get a FREE copy of Panda Platinum v7 plus firewall for every computer in their homes. You Deserve Complimentary Protection At Home! Tired of spending up to \$50 on AV and firewall licenses every year for each machine in your home? Qualify on our industry perks program and never pay again! (Cover all of your home machines too ? for no charge.). You'll get Panda Software's professional AV + firewall, the one that catches More Viruses, Faster?, even on machines you thought were protected! (Limited time, US-only program for qualified entrants only.) David Coursey, ZDNet.com said, "The Panda execs I met with said they are perfectly OK with AnchorDesk readers spoofing their form to get the software." <http://www.w2knews.com/panda/download.cfm?ref=inn3107>

**McAfee Virus Scan discount** 15% all McAfee online products at : <http://www.mcafee.com/usergroups/>

**Aladdin Stuffit**, Aladdin's best ZIP compression software, Stuffit 8, is now available. It has the strongest security and data protection technology for Windows. There is a special User Group discount of \$29.99. For more information go to: <http://www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/index.html> and enter the code: PCUG 2002.

**PowerQuest** -- PartitionMagic v8 (List \$69.95) -\$35.00  
-- Drive Image v7 (List \$69.95)-Full System Backup Utility, \$35.00. PartitionMagic, Drive Image, Both Educational CDs \$89. <http://www.ugr.com/order/> with group code UGAUGNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

**VOPT XP** - New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software ([www.goldenbow.com](http://www.goldenbow.com)). Download a free 30 day trial to see how fast it will defragment your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the user group discount \$30 or \$10 off the \$40 price.

continued on page 28

# July Board Meeting Minutes



The July Board Meeting Minutes are in the printed version of the Orange Bytes that is mailed to all members.

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## August 10th Meeting Preview

### **MAIN MEETING 1:00 Irvine Hall**

Touring the Net and some Advanced Google techniques by Patrick Crispin, co-author of famous Internet Tourbus . The Internet Tourbus, ([www.tourbus.com](http://www.tourbus.com)) an online free email newsletter published twice a week, and read by about 100,000 people in 130 countries around the globe. They explain Internet technology in plain English, with a dash of humor. Since 1995, Tourbus riders have been getting the scoop on Search Engines, Spam, Viruses, Cookies, Urban Legends, and other topics. Patrick works at CSUFullerton. and will also go over advanced Goggle searching! He is a very engaging speaker, so don't miss this one!

### **NEW TECHNOLOGY 9:30 Irvine Hall**

Buying and Using Laptop Computers

**NEW DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPY SIG - SEE PAGE 28**

# 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%.

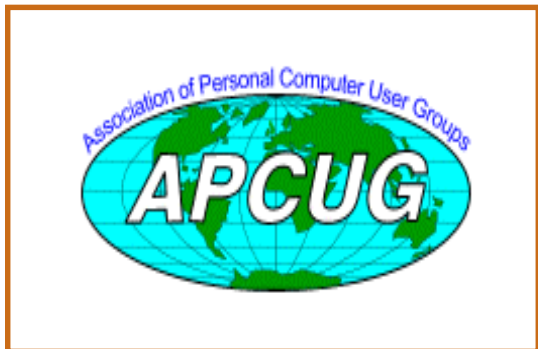
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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 be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

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



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# No More Video Tape

*Implications of Video Cameras Becoming Tapeless*

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC,  
teveringham@acm.org

In video first we changed over from editing with tape to digital editing with computers. Then we went to exporting the video first to laser Disc and VCDs followed by DVDs. As of this year we are in the transition eliminating tape in video cameras. Sony introduced at the Consumer Electronic Show in January consumer video Cameras that record to Mini DVDs. At the National Association of Broadcasters they announced shoulder-mounted cameras for news crews that record to blue laser DVDs (4 times the capacity as a standard DVD). There Panasonic shocked everyone with the announcement of a TV news camera that replaced tape with solid state memory modules. This camera will be available late this year with a consumer handheld version ready in 2004 or 2005.

What does all this mean for those at the consumer and prosumer levels. For one thing it means no more tape mechanisms eating your video. It also means longer shelf life. With videotape significant deterioration can happen within a year and by 10 years it is probably gone. With DVD-R or DVD+R media the life is expected to be 40-250 years. With DVD rewritable formats the life is expected to be 25-100 years. The more moving parts you have, the more probable you will have a breakdown of your equipment. With Sony you have replaced a complex drive and tape feed mechanism with a more reliable optical disc recorder. The Panasonic goes one step farther with replacing all the moving parts of the recording mechanism via using memory modules. As with DV cameras, these cameras will not have the transference problems of converting an analog signal to digital format, but also their transfer rate will not be governed by the slowness of a tape deck or camera tape drive. With Sony the internal speed will be at the speed like that of a DVD drive and Panasonic like that of computer RAM, so the real limiting factor will be the speed connection method between the camera or player to the device being transferred to. Of course since it is in random access format with access to any part of the video within in a second from the point it is in the camera on, you can quickly do a rough edit to get only the portions of what you have shot that is of interest. We are starting to see instant playback of weddings at their receptions, and this new technology will probably increase this type of use of video.

One of the more important things this ties into is transferring video over data networks. It use to be you had to transfer video over satellite in real time, if the

satellite facilities were available in your area. Later you physically had to travel to a place where you could digitized the video by hooking up a camera or tape deck to a computer and then sent it over a land or satellite based digital network at speeds faster than real time. Now you can directly transfer the video from the camera using a portable satellite dish or even the Internet very much faster than real time (This was used by embedded reporters in the recent Iraq war, but the new technology should make such transfers even faster). Even the average consumer with a broadband Internet connection should be able to take advantage of this too. Your video is transferred at Firewire rates or faster, so transfer of a 1/2 hour of video from your camera to your computer in 3 minutes or less. The big issue would be to convert the video from standard DV to MPEG-4 or Windows Media. Using a 2.4 GHz Pentium 4 or better it should take about the same amount of time as the time length of your video, but for DVD quality it should take 3 times as long.

The implications for professional and consumer associations and user groups, computer related and not, could be phenomenal. Take a typical 45-minute presentation. The presentation starts at 10 AM on the east coast of the United States. The videographer can pack up his equipment, get home, load the video into his computer, and encode it at VHS quality for transfer over the Internet by noon. By 12:30 PM the video is on a server ready to download by whoever knows where it is and has the password to allow them to download it. By 1:00 PM those in the know could have downloaded it and are on their way with their laptop with the video on it to an awaiting LCD projector in the meeting room of their group where the presentation will be shown. Of course 1 PM on the east coast is only noon in Chicago, 11 AM in Denver, or 10 AM on the west coast. It is still even early enough for an evening meeting in London, England. Associations of such groups may even set up their own video news services for the benefit of the members of their groups using this technology and possibly have a newsreel available of what has happened in the groups of their association over the last week or month.

With video being stored in solid state memory modules or DVD in the camera; we will no longer have the problems of video tape, can almost instantaneously access the portions of the video you want from the point of it being in the camera on, and enable quick long distance transfer of video via data networks like the Internet. It is already starting to get to the consumer level, which may effect how we even hold common meetings and events. The effects of such technology may affect our lives in many ways in the not to distant future.

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## Right Click, Try It – You May Like It

By Les J. Kizer, Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group &  
Mid-Hudson Computer User Group

My friends, there was a time long ago. It was way back in the early age as computer time is told. Even some of us old folks find it hard to recall; however, you know, for the children's sake we need to remember history. It was a time before the ascent of the rodent.

In those prehistoric PC days, when we copied text from one place to another, we blocked the beginning of the copy or move by pressing ctrl-b. Then we would use the up and down arrow keys to go to the end of the block. Again we would press ctrl-b to define the end of the block. Eventually someone, who is long forgotten, highlighted the area from the beginning to the end of the block and told us the text was now selected, not blocked.

Unblocking was done with ctrl-o, which today will help you open a file. Ctrl-b now causes selected text to become bold, which in those dark days before the rodent invaded, I can't remember having bold type at all. Then while the text was blocked, or selected, we pressed ctrl-x for cut or ctrl-c for copy followed by using the up and down arrow keys to point to the place where we wanted the text inserted. Then press ctrl-v for paste. Ctrl-x, ctrl-c and ctrl-v still exist and are used by only the oldest among us.

When the rodent arrived and we plugged its tail into the PC, many advances came. The menu bar was enhanced buttons, and

then the tool bar was added. Most application programs added rodent buttons for cut, copy and paste. With the index finger pressing on the rodent's hindquarter, selecting text was easier, and highlighted also. Moving the rodent to the cut or copy button followed by a flick of the index finger gave the command to be. Then sliding the somewhat tamed rodent to the location of the insert, a quick flick and then back to the paste button for another flick of the index finger. Progress! Ease of Use! Fabulous! And rodents become famous, heralded throughout the land.

That, though, is not the end of the rodent's march to fame. For all this fame was obtained by pressing the rodent with only the left or index finger. What about pressing the rodent's other hindquarter? Silently, with great stealth, someone slipped in something new. It was done so quietly and without a fanfare, we are not even sure when it began to happen.

It is called simply: right-click, as opposed to click. Now we can select the text we want to cut or copy. Then, without an arduous effort of guiding the rodent to the menu or tool bar, we simply right-click. Walla! A menu pops up on the spot giving us likely choices upon which to flick our index finger. Move the rodent to the insert point, and right-click again. The same or a modified menu pops up for us to flick our choice. Neat, and so effortless.

Today, we can right-click almost anything – desktop, icons, menu bars – or anywhere, and a small menu pops up containing the choices we are most likely to flick. Such is the added triumph of the rodent and right-click. Is there any end to what we can accomplish simply by flicking a rodent's hindquarter – one side or the other. Long live the rodent!

[pc.Les@Juno.com](mailto:pc.Les@Juno.com)

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

## 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!

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# Ode for a Blank CD on a Hot Day

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By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC,  
teveringham@acm.org

It was a July 4th weekend so humid and hot, the air conditioners purring away in their lots.

And far abreast from wanting to swoon, I too was in my air-conditioned cocoon.

But unlike others just wanting to relax, I looked for something to stop sticking to my slacks.

To my computer I went and took CD blanks; to back up files, to protect them from cranks.

A blank CD went into my drive, drew on my files, and there it did thrive.

My drive was slow and rather than fidget, my TV controller became my widget.

Through The Christmas Grinch the cool came quicker, but then the picture tube decided to flicker.

The tube went dark and so did the lights, creating unexpected silence in the blind filtered sunlight.

The moment was brief, the lights soon restored, the TV roared to life and revealed its reward.

Then from the next room came a profound hooting, it was sound of my computer rebooting.

Amidst the restored lights a thought then holstered, my computer had just made me a coaster.

Initially with thoughts of despair and waste, I realized then I had been given an ace.

My faithful computer, in its own way, gave me a cold drink holder for such a hot day.

This is a true story. Timothy Everingham ■

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## Flashing a BIOS

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By Claud Sibert, NOCCC

This contribution to the Orange Bytes is no charge.

A successful method for flash updating the BIOS chip is worthy of reporting to the Orange Bytes.

I refer to my computer that I purchased from DTK Computers. I contacted the DTK web site for information regarding updating the BIOS chip.

I printed the instructions directly from the screen. I then downloaded 2 files: (1) AWDFH752.ZIP and (2) 92v122.ZIP. These files unzipped into AWDFH752.EXE and 92v122.BIN respectively. The flash update technique is detailed below:

1. Prepare a 3.5 inch WIN98 boot disk. This is a neat disk, not creating the RAM Drive.
2. Copy awdfh752.exe and 92v122.bin to the boot disk or a

different disk.

3. Boot the computer from the A: drive using the WIN 98 boot disk.
4. At the DOS prompt key A:\>awdfh752.exe and tap return.
5. The utility runs and requests the name of the program to flash.
6. Key 92v122.bin into the space provided and tap return.
7. You are asked to save the old BIOS. I replied yes and saved to the A: drive - olddtk.bin.
8. Flash update proceeds with an indicator graph showing the progress.
9. At completion, exit the utility.
10. Remove the 3.5 disk and turn off the computer.
11. Cold boot the computer.
12. The new BIOS information appears on the screen.
13. An error message appears to the effect that the CPU speed cannot be identified.
14. Press DEL to enter Setup. Confirm the proper CPU speed. Exit with save.
15. Boot-up is successful.

I certainly hope this will be useful to you readers!!!

**Editors Note:** The above procedure, with minor variations, is typical of most motherboards that support flashing the BIOS ROM. Some vendors have made the procedure even easier. They have implemented an online procedure that does everything auto-magically once you click on a button on their website. Websites caution users that "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" They use a paragraph or more to explain that there are always dangers in a flash update. That in the worst case, the user ends up with an expensive paper weight instead of a motherboard. One of the biggest reasons for updating a BIOS has been to get one that supports a larger hard disk. Most websites have a list of what problems the various BIOS updates fix. If you don't have one of those problems, it is probably best to pass on the procedure. ■

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## New Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members to our group. We hope that you enjoy the experience and make some new friends. Please don't be shy about asking who's who and what' where or when.

Robert K. Anetu

David Davis

Robert McLachlan

Micki Nichka

William Trammell



# Microsoft Windows XP Professional

By Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC

Microsoft has done it again. Advocates and detractors can rehash their critiques and criticisms from every previous generation of Windows operating systems because the story is essentially the same. Like it or not, Windows XP is the baseline for all future releases of Microsoft's progeny.

The importance of Windows XP is relative. Windows NT/2000 is genetically the parent of Windows XP. Those who have already tasted Windows NT/2000 already know that stability and reliability were a higher priority than the ability to play games (as in Windows 98). However, Windows XP takes great efforts to become a far superior gaming platform than prior incarnations of Windows NT.

By now, everyone has heard of his favorite new features in Windows XP. I'll take this opportunity to present a few observations gained from using Windows XP that won't be found in the usual marketing material.

Beyond the merely superficial cosmetics and tricks that distract to annoyance, many significant enhancements might compel a user to upgrade from the Windows 2000 on his current computer. It is beyond the scope of this review to find and justify the particular one of dozens of new features that would sway a person to make that \$200 upgrade. That is an issue for the individual, his requirements, his wallet, and his conscience.

On the other hand, those who suffer with Windows 98 or Windows Millennium should seriously consider the relief offered by Windows XP and a relatively newer speed microprocessor.

The Windows NT/2000/XP operating system core is far more stable than the consumer/gamer oriented Windows 95/98/Millennium versions of the past. Application crashes normally do not affect other applications or the operating system itself. Operating system crashes are rare. Instead of requiring rebooting (restarting) several times each day, Windows XP can run days, weeks, and even months without requiring rebooting.

The Achilles heel of Windows (including 2000/XP) is that third-party device drivers run at the most intimate levels of the operating system. Being on par with the operating system inherently allows problematic code to lay waste to anything in memory.

In years past, Windows NT did not allow such low-level access by device drivers. When aberrant behavior was detected, the Windows NT kernel prevented the damage from occurring. This extra level of security provided significantly greater stability when frail (ex. – new video) drivers were run. Then, in pursuit of a fractional performance increase, device drivers were allowed unfettered access to the bowels of the Windows NT core.

The performance benefits of the new low-level device drivers (running in kernel ring 0) were apparent in Windows 2000. The penalty is that it can suffer greatly when less than perfect video drivers are used. Manifestations include aberrant screen rendering and Windows Explorer frequently crashing until a rejuvenating reboot.

Windows XP attempts to rectify the situation by having device drivers certified by Microsoft for compatibility and, presumably, quality. To a large extent this works. Unfortunately, certification is an expensive ordeal (because manufacturers must pay Microsoft to perform certification testing) and some hardware manufacturers avoid the process (i.e. – cost) entirely but attempt to comply with the guidelines nonetheless.

## Installation

Windows first gained a foothold in homes and offices because it was a vast collection of hardware device drivers of every make and model possible. Every computer must get the various layers of hardware to communicate with the various layers of software. Windows device drivers are low-level software interfaces between the physical hardware and low-level functions of the operating system (kernel) itself. To succeed in the marketplace, any operating system has to make installation and configuration as simple and easy as possible.

Installation of Windows has never been easier. Gone are the annoying selections-and-questions that disrupted and plagued prior generations of Windows installation routines.

Windows XP detected and installed specific Microsoft device drivers for each of the hardware component on my computer. Of course, it found generic devices like DVD-ROM and CD-ROM drives. Far more importantly, it found the correct device drivers for the ATI All-In-Wonder 128 Pro video adapter and Creative Labs Sound Blaster audio adapter.

This is significant because it eliminates a time consuming step from the installation process. Prior generations of Windows tended to install only generic video drivers that provided 16 or 256 colors and low video resolutions (such as 640x480 or 800x600).

Now, Windows automatically installs the basic ATI All-In-Wonder 128 Pro video drivers (but not the ATI DVD movie, television, VCD, etc. players). Plug and Play has gone a long way! Thus, work can progress for an indefinite period of time before the desire or need for movies or television, not greater video resolutions (1024x768 to 2048x1536, depending upon hardware available), forced the search for video device drivers (on CD-ROM and the Internet) and the consequent disruption of the installation of major software applications.

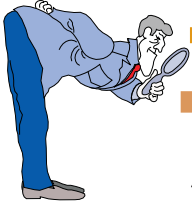
## Requirements

RAM (random access memory) is so inexpensive now that it makes no sense for a new desktop computer to have less than 512 megabytes of RAM. Windows XP and modern applications will consume any and all resources present.

I have heard foolish people recommend 128 megabytes of

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# Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Standard

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

Adobe is the creator of the ubiquitous Portable Document Format (PDF) file that is one of the few things that computerists can't live without. To make sure that we are all hooked, the Adobe Reader (formerly called Acrobat Reader) and usable with Windows, Mac, and UNIX operating systems. It is free and can be downloaded from their website, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). You know that old saying: "You get what you pay for," well that's true here, since the Reader only allows you to read, copy, and print PDF files. If you want to do useful work with them, you need to purchase one of the Acrobat programs.

The Acrobat family consists of Elements, Standard, and Professional, with the middle one being the subject of this review. Elements is a volume-license product for use only with Windows that allows user organizations to standardize to the PDF format for document distribution.

Acrobat allows you to convert electronic or paper documents – even Web pages – to PDF from just about any application. Some applications (like AutoCAD, Microsoft's Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as well as Outlook, Visio, and MS Project Pro) have Acrobat icons imbedded in their menu systems. With others, you can use the PDF option in your Print menu to do the conversion. PDF is the defacto standard for exchanging, viewing, reviewing and commenting on documents.

PDF documents have the exact look and content of the originals (including layout, fonts, and graphics, as well as bookmarks and link to the Web. If the original document doesn't contain bookmarks and links, the PDF conversion allows you to add these and more.

There is another point worth noting. Acrobat is not an authoring format. As such, it has only limited editing ability (as distinct from its extensive annotating and markup capabilities). Typically, you can delete a page or correct misspelled words. More extensive changes are best made in the source document, if available. Of course, you always can convert the PDF to a Word, txt, or other format for editing. However, this seems like an excessively roundabout way to do it. Perhaps Adobe will expand the editing capability in future Acrobat versions?

In a recent PC Magazine review by Sally Wiener Grotta (July 2003, p. 42), she rated Acrobat 6.0 4 out of 5, and stated: ...the entire Acrobat 6 line is powerful,

versatile, and indispensable." I would add that Standard is easy to work with and well worth the price (MSRP=\$299, upgrade=\$99). And it is available for Windows and MacX OSs. If you need the Pro version (to create electronic forms, and use enhanced tools for printing, viewing, and navigating large-format documents), it'll cost you \$449.

Minimum system requirements include Pentium processor, Windows 98/NT/2000/XP, Internet Explorer 5, 64MB RAM, 220MB available hard-disk space, 800x600 screen resolution, & CD-ROM drive.

The electronic Help system is top notch and the software package comes with a 21-page printed user guide covering installation and the basics of using Acrobat Standard. If you need more help, there is plenty available at the Adobe website.

OK, let's get into how we are using Acrobat 6. In preparing the monthly Orange Bytes newsletters, our Editor, Jim Sanders, uses Adobe PageMaker 7.0 to assemble and format the various elements of the newsletter. Then he creates a PDF file from the draft document and emails it to the Copy Editor (that's me), as well as to the NOCCC Board members for corrections and comments.

In reviewing a PDF document, there are a number of ways to annotate proposed changes of text or comments. Insertions, deletions, replacements, highlighting, text strike-throughs or underlining, and neat colored sticky notes are easy to do. You even can add audio annotations, if you have a microphone! Every comment in the document is displayed in a Comments List that can be sorted and filtered. And you can create a comment summary that can show connector lines between comments and the page items referred to.

Prior to our using Acrobat, I would print a copy of the 28-page PDF-format newsletter, mark it up, then either deliver to Jim the marked-up copy or read the corrections to him over the phone so that he could make the necessary changes to his master. Not only was this process laborious and time-consuming, but expensive as well.

Now, thanks to the smart folks at Adobe, we have a simple, more efficient, and less costly Review and Comment electronic process for all the people involved in assembling and reviewing our newsletter. And our end products, (printed Bytes and web site copy), are superior as well. Each reviewer (with Acrobat software) sends only the comments from his/her PDF draft back to the review initiator via email and Acrobat automatically integrates them as "layers" on his original PDF. (Prior to v.6, reviewers had to email the entire annotated PDF file back to the initiator.)





Then our Editor can transfer the corrections to his master file.

There are a “zillion” other useful features available in the Acrobat 6 software, including protecting PDF files, search, and productivity-improvement tools. You can check these out in the aforementioned PC Magazine review or at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Needless to say, Adobe Acrobat 6 is great program to work with. ■

# Mastering Sheet Metal Design With Autodesk Inventor

By Joe Mizer, NOCCC

This small 111 page book, written by Travis Jones and Neil Munro, is published by Autodesk Press and comes with a CD-Rom. Autodesk Press publishes an entire series of books on all of the Autodesk products. Other books in the Inventor Series are Autodesk Inventor 7 Certification Exam & Preparation Manual, Using Autodesk Inventor 6, Autodesk Inventor 6: Essentials with Autodesk Inventor 7 update. These books are the best way to keep abreast of the latest in technology. In fact the Certification guide one of the newest books should hit the bookshelves June 23, 2003. The courseware includes a student guide which I have been reading with my burger and fries at lunch for the last month or so. Also included on the CD is a set of data for use with the exercises and an interactive guide, which you place on one side of your screen while also running Inventor on the other side of the screen. When you install the files from the CD the exercises you use are in the Design Support System Volume, which are the same material as the printed student guide. The course is basically one chapter and eight exercises.

The sheet metal design tools available in Inventor and which are covered very well in this course are Styles, Flat Pattern, Face, Contour Flange, Cut, Flange, Hem Fold, Corner Seam, Bend, Hole, Corner Round, Corner Chamfer, and the Punch Tool. The Styles dialog box allows you to set the type of sheet metal, the bend properties and the default corner style. The parameters you set in the styles box will be used as the default for the entire sheet metal part you are designing. There are four corner relief styles, which are round, square, tear, and trim to bend. The Flat Pattern tool is the last step in the design since it allows you to unfold the three-dimensional part you have just created into a flat piece of sheet metal. A face is typically the base feature of a sheet metal part. The function of most of the tools is obvious from the name, however the use of each tool is covered in the exercised.

This book is more than just a guide on how to use the tools in Inventor; it is also a good tutorial on sheet metal design in

general. I suggest however you take your designs and let your sheet metal fabricator make suggestions. If you agree to the suggested changes which he or she will make you might save some money and tailor your design so it can be made faster and better, the choice is yours as it is your design.

The list price is only \$26.95; it is available from Amazon books on-line and at the better bookstores. I have bent the pages so many times I need to glue the cover back on. I recommend this book to anyone using Inventor, as it will give you good practice in working with all of the tools. It takes a good amount of time to work your way through the examples, however when you finish you will know a lot about sheet metal and a lot about how to design your project using Inventor. It is books like this one, and the many others available, (many more books than for any other software), that makes Inventor the software of choice, as far as I am concerned. ■

# Microsoft Picture It! For Windows

A 2003 Visual Quickstart Guide

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

This paperback book is a visual, step-by-step tutorial for the four programs in the “Picture It! 7” line: Express, Photo, Photo Premium, and Digital Image Pro. The latter is the high-end, “full feature” software program that I use. Steve Smith ([www.siliconwasteland.com](http://www.siliconwasteland.com)), the author of this PeachPit Press publication, has written more than fifty computer and game books in addition to articles for dozens of major magazines.

The 182-page book is targeted to beginners and intermediate users of Picture It! Each of the 14 chapters is written as a self-contained unit. The author uses an easy-to-read two-column format with the outer column containing the text and inner illustrative screenshots referred to by number in the text. Most of the illustrations are of superior quality to those contained in the software’s Companion Guide. In addition, there are four pages of color photos where black-and-white does not adequately illustrate the text’s point.

Schwartz has an easy-to-read writing style and the Guide is profusely illustrated. Also, there are many “Tips” that are useful in improving your program skills. Chapter 1, Picture It! Essentials, gives you a quick overview of all the tools available in the software to make your digital images look their best. Subsequent chapters give you all the details necessary to develop proficiency needed to exploit the program’s capabilities.

If you like to get up to speed with a software program, are a novice, and prefer reading from a printed guide rather than your computer screen (like me), you will benefit by reading

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





from beginning to end. If you have some smarts in image editing, and you seek guidance on individual topics (e.g., importing images, adjusting whole images, selective editing, layers, text addition, filters, printing, etc.), you can go directly to the relevant chapter for guidance.

The Visual Quickstart Guide (ISBN 0-321-19390-3) has an MSRP of \$19.99 and is available from the publisher at [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com) at a \$2 discount and free S&H. However, "the 64 dollar question" is, should you buy this book?

To properly answer this question, you need to know some additional facts. First, the Microsoft Digital Image Pro software has an MSRP of \$109, but is available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$80, including S&H. Second, Microsoft provides a 287-page written Companion Guide that has over 40 pages devoted to improving your digital camera and scanner usage skills as well as optimizing your monitor settings to work with digital photos.

In my view, the Companion Guide is chock-full of valuable information, but does not serve as well as a tutorial and has illustrations that could be of better quality. Therefore, I believe that the Schwartz book nicely complements the printed and electronic "Help" available from the Microsoft program and online. ■

## 50 Biggest Computer Mistakes from Kim Komando

By Vance Jochim, NOCCC

This "Book on a CD" \$19.95 product is packaged in a cardboard sleeve and is a computer geeks' version of watching Suzanne Somers selling Thighmasters. Kim Komando looks too good to be a computer geek, but she has a radio show and provides advice on how to fix computer problems on over 400 radio stations in the U.S.

The CD installs on your computer and takes about 3 MB of space. You get a control center with many menu choices and it also provides capability to link to data via the Internet. Half of the main screen contains banner ads and links to visit or sign up to extra-cost items like Komando's newsletter or her "e-Store", but they do show the screen on the package, so at least you know what you are getting. The only things you actually get on the CD are the 50 mistakes book of 85 PDF pages and fashion pictures of Kim in swim suits, etc. Everything else is on the website.

A hotlink on the main page leads to the "book", which leads to an index where you can either LISTEN via audio to the book, or you can READ a printed chapter. The chapters are in PDF format, and they take control of the window so you can't pull up the normal windows bar at the bottom of the screen to

switch applications. (This is not user friendly if you like to move between open windows.)

What about the content? I found it extremely basic - i.e., for a housewife who never worked with computers. E.g., "mistake" number three was "save the box that software comes in." Here are some examples of the 50 "Mistakes."

- \* Cleaning dirt off keyboards - general tips but no specific product recommendations.

- \* Changing resolution on a monitor - some basics about why, and ONLY brief instructions how to do it on XP systems, not Windows 98 etc.

- \* Using the recycle bin - actually a good tip of using Shift - Delete to completely delete a selected file without moving it to the recycle bin, but, I had to read an entire page of general info to find the tip.

- \* Using the scheduler - a good tip on what it is, and why use it to run defrag weekly, etc.

- \* Wasting system resources - good info on running `msconfig.exe` and unchecking programs that use system resources.

- \* Removing .CAB files - a good tip on them and how to open and read them.

### Summary

I skimmed or read all 50 tips in about 75 minutes. That includes the aggravating time of scrolling up and down to read TWO columns on each page.

For \$19.95, I could find more sophisticated tips in several copies of PC World or PC Magazine or on their websites or buy a "dummies" book. The rest of the links on the main screen all take you to Komando's Internet web page at [www.komando.com](http://www.komando.com), which you now can go to without using the main screen in the product.

Thus, an experienced user who reads books or magazines or technical websites would feel cheated with this product. However, I can really recommend giving it to your mom, kids, or other users new to computers to learn some of the better tips. If you have kids, make them read every article to get some background on what is important before letting them use a computer. So, except for the dense scrolling problem and the very wordy writing method, this would be a good \$19.95 stocking stuffer for new PC users. But, the total of about 85 pages makes me think of softbound "tips" books for \$7 compared to this electronic only version that is not even printed... so you be the judge where you want to spend your money.

Vance Jochim is past President of the North Orange County Computer Club and is a Certified Lotus Notes Developer, and has been using personal computers since Apple II's were NEW.

Reviews Editor Comments: User Group members may receive a 20% discount on the CD-book. A more laudatory review may be found in the July 2003 issue of The Space Coast PC Journal at [www.spcug.com](http://www.spcug.com), p.5. ■



# CalcCenter2

By Bill Allen, NOCCC

This year's CalcCenter2 from Wolfram Research is the newest version of CalcCenter, which was initially released in March 2001. Wolfram Research is the company that brought us Mathematica, one of the world's most popular industrial-strength math analysis programs. CalcCenter, on the other hand, is written to support engineers, physicists, chemists, actuaries, statisticians, etc. who have occasional need for complex mathematics but, because they do not use such math on a regular basis, can use some "professional" mathematical assistance.

If you are concerned about yet another program to learn to use you will be pleased to learn that CalcCenter2 is designed to minimize learning lead-time to get you doing productive work as soon as possible. As one example, you can cut and paste an Excel or MatLab formula into CalcCenter2 and the program will suggest the CalcCenter2 nearest equivalent to it.

CalcCenter2 uses the Mathematica notebook text formatting. That permits the entry of equations in word processor "linear" format similar to that in Excel; however the program can automatically convert such equations to type set format suitable for textbooks, professional journals, or high-quality technical reports suitable for delivery to a customer. Equations can be entered directly as text or through the use of over 500 program-unique Instant Calculators, as described below. Accordingly, CalcCenter2 notebooks can be imported and used actively in Mathematica. Moreover, CalcCenter2 supports MathML 2.0, which is the current XML based standard for mathematical and scientific content on the web.

CalcCenter2 covers algebra in detail. The major functions are algebraic expression simplification, polynomial factoring, polynomial expansion, and reduction to partial fractions. Actually the program has literally hundreds of such math functions.

CalcCenter2 will also do calculus differentiation or integration using either algebraic symbols or real numbers. Trigonometry, hyperbolic trig, complex number math, and Bessel functions are included as well. Data unit conversion [SI, MLK, etc] can be conducted at any time during math calculations. A great number of matrix functions are included. Functions like matrix addition, multiplication, inversion, transposition, determinant calculation, row and column repositioning, and eigenvalues and eigenvectors are provided.

CalcCenter2 includes significant statistics functions. In addition to the mean, mode, and median, plus variance and standard deviation functions, a great variety of distributions are provided. They include the Gaussian, Poisson, Student, Chi Square, Cauchy, Exponential, Logistical and Weibull among others. Beyond the above, the program user can even define special functions that may include keywords such as IF,

WHICH, DO, FOR, and WHILE for rudimentary programming if needed.

The program also provides graphics and "solver" menus. A SmartPlot function takes the guesswork out of preliminary data plotting. Any equation entered into SmartPlot is instantly plotted with automatically selected axes and variable ranges. A variety of other plot formats such as linear, log-linear, polar, contour, density, inequality, and multiple 3-D formats are also available for user selection.

Dedicated solvers will generate numerical solutions for algebraic equations, ordinary differential equations, partial differential equations, etc. Solvers are also provided for finding the roots and minimums of a wide variety of equation types. Most importantly, CalcCenter2 has been designed and thoroughly tested to ensure it can generate accurate answers using very large as well as very small input values. Significantly, because CalcCenter2 equations can be solved symbolically, numerical inputs can be delayed until final equation solution so the effect of very large or very small values can be lessened. Solving equations symbolically also may provide important insights to the underlying physical phenomenon being described by the equations used.

CalcCenter2 equations can be imported into Mathematica where those same equations can be edited and used actively. In effect, multiple CalcCenter2 programs can function as feeders to a program manager, chief engineer, etc. editing a final report for a customer, thus improving manpower productivity with CalcCenter2.

The program opens with a typical Windows screen showing pull-down menus with the following headings: FILE, EDIT, CALCULATE, BASIC MATH, ALGEBRA, CALCULUS, LIST&MATRICES, GRAPHS, SOLVERS, DEFINING FUNCTIONS, and HELP. The work area is divided into two windows. The left window provides access to a set of controllers while the right side is a work area using the Mathematica unique notebook file format that accommodates text, equations, and graphics. To call an Instant Calculator, just pull down the applicable menu, select the equation type, and click on the applicable bar in the left hand controller window and up pops the Instant Calculator. That left hand window allows either the Instant Calculator or a textual equivalent to be chosen.

The utility of the program was evaluated by importing a list of comma delimited data points generated in Excel using a fifth order polynomial which has the typical reflex point in the data plot. The data points were plotted in a CalcCenter2 notebook file. Then a fifth order polynomial curve was generated in CalcCenter2 using the data points. That curve, showing the expected reflex point, was compared to the Excel curve. The results closely matched that in Excel.

The feature that makes CalcCenter2 really unique and valuable to the occasional mathematician is all the Instant Calculators. For example, if you need to integrate  $1/(1+x^2)$  over the range 0 to 1, just click the CALCULUS menu and

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## Product Reviews

select “integrate numerically.” A box pops up in the right side window with four entry sub-boxes to be filled in by the user. The first entry is your function, “ $1/(1+x^2)$ ”. The next entry is the variable of the integration, “ $x$ ”, followed by entry of the upper and lower numerical limits. Once you have made the above entries, hit the calculate button. The answer appears just below. If a user entry error has occurred, the program makes an effort to help resolve the issue for you. The Instant Calculator results can all be converted to keyboard equivalents for final typesetting copy.

The Instant Calculators are a boon that any busy engineer, scientist, or statistician will appreciate. No need to keep old college textbooks at hand to thumb through hoping to remember where a particular method is located in the book. Just call up the relevant Instant Calculator needed, be it in algebra, calculus, matrix algebra, statistics, or whatever. Enter your data and CalcCenter2 does the heavy lifting. What more could part-time mathematicians ask for?

The package includes a CD and an introductory manual that provides instructions on installing the program and getting started. Comprehensive help documentation is provided online at: <http://documents.wolfram.com/calculationcenter/>.

If the user is confused about how to use one of the Instant Calculators, a review of that Instant Calculator at the applicable help web page should clear up any confusion. Examples are provided that can be cut and pasted if needed.

Further review information on CalcCenter2 can be found at: <http://www.wolfram.com/products/calculationcenter/index.html>.

The \$295 (commercial price) program can be ordered on line at: <http://store.wolfram.com/view/app/calccenter/>. However, there are special prices and site licenses available for government, academic, and student (including community college) users as well.

CalcCenter2 was evaluated on an 860 MHz Pentium III PC equipped with cable Internet, an 8X/4X CD R/W, and a 60 GHz hard disk.

You can be assured that CalcCenter2 will be reliable since it is a product of Wolfram Research, the makers of Mathematica, one of the most comprehensive math analysis computer programs available for sale to the public. CalcCenter2 is of the same high quality as Mathematica. ■

## BackupTime for Windows

By Lloyd Mizer, NOCCC

This program from Cezeo Software is fantastic; it takes the effort out of backing up your data and it is a bargain at \$24.95. It is a backup, scheduler and reminder all in one. CEZEO sells it as shareware so you can try it out and if you don't like it for any reason, just uninstall it after the 30-day free trial. The

interface is intuitive and easy to use; you will be able to get it up and running in less than an hour. Cezeo has a video tutorial of BackupTime features, how to create a schedule, and a help library, online. Every window has its own help screen.

There are two types of computer users: those that have had a hard disk crash and those that will have a hard disk crash. That is why it is so important to back up your hard disk, but most people never make the time to backup. This program takes the drudgery out of backing up your data and once it is set up it does the chore automatically.

It allows you to back up any or all of your data on any schedule you choose. You can create different schedules for different data and know that the data will be backed up as you direct. You can back up data every minute, hour, day, week, or month. You can schedule a backup for any time day or night. Data can be backed up to local or network storage. You can back up some data to one location and other data to another location. You can save space on whatever media you are backing up to, by using zip compression. Names of archived files/folders can include the date and time they were stored.

It maintains a log of all warnings and errors, and you can turn on sound to give a warning when an error occurs. You can program the scheduler to shut down, restart, log off, or hibernate your computer.

It works on Windows 9x, Windows ME, Windows XP, Windows NT, and Windows 2000.

CEZEO Software, <http://www.BackupTime.com>

List Price: \$24.95 ■

## Moving to VB .NET: Strategies, Concepts, and Code, 2nd Edition

By Lloyd Mizer, NOCCC

I highly recommend this book by Dan Appleman for the experienced Visual Basic 6 programmer who wants/needs to move to the Visual Basic .NET platform. It sets up guidelines to determine when an application should continue to exist as legacy code and when it should be converted to VB.NET. It assumes that you are already an intermediate-to-advanced VB6 programmer. Microsoft purchased thousands of copies of the first edition, to pass out at Microsoft's .NET Developer training tour.

If you are new to programming, this is not the book for you. It is not a normal tutorial or reference book on the .NET platform. VB.NET is not VB6 and VB6 code will not load in VB.NET without conversion. There is a migration wizard that converts VB6 code into VB.NET when you load a VB6 application into Visual Studio .NET, but you will spend a lot of time testing and coding to get the code to run properly.



The code for the book must be downloaded from the web site since a CD is not provided. To keep the book size to 594 pages, the code listing only contains the code necessary to explain the concept being discussed; the entire code is available for download from the website.

VB .NET is a significant change from VB6. This edition includes the new features added to Visual Basic .NET in Visual Studio 2003. It is about your priorities in learning .NET. The new concepts you need and how they will change the way you code. It also provides the tools needed for Internet application development. You have a vast collection of object libraries at your fingertips. It includes a short course in object-oriented programming, and the new features added to VB.NET.

With VB.NET, the Visual Basic programmer now has the power and object-oriented programming tools provided in C++. Visual Basic is now a full-fledged Object Oriented Programming language. You now have Inheritance, Free-threaded Multithreading, Support for all of the Common Language Runtime CLR-defined variable types, Attributes, and Metadata.

Dan is the president of Desaware, Inc., a developer of add-on products and components for Visual Studio. He is the author of a new series of electronic books on .NET related topics, and is a cofounder of Apress.

Apress, <http://www.apress.com>

ISBN: 1-59059-102-x

List price: \$44.99 ■

## Quicken Premier 2003

By *Everett Freywald, NOCCC*

My wife has been using Quicken for the past few years. Bank America sent us Quicken software since we bank online. Installation is easy and straightforward; just make sure to back up any existing files you may have on your computer. If you have an older version of Quicken, the new version will automatically update your files to the new format. If you have never used Quicken before, the new program gradually walks you through how to set up your accounts step by step. One thing that I missed from the 2002 and earlier versions, was that you couldn't open up to a register.

### 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?

Setting up new accounts is easy with the help that Quicken gives you. You can even choose to download information from your financial institution, provided that your bank offers that service. Since we have no CD's I didn't try to set up one. If you have investments, tracking them is a bit easier and the new Quicken is geared to on-line investment and banking. If your financial institution is on-line, you can download your statements and keep track of activity in your account. For a fee, you can even set up to pay your bills on-line with Quicken. Quicken will help rack your taxes and, if set up to start with, make filling out your tax forms a little easier.

Setting up a paycheck is much easier in this version of Quicken. The program will walk you through setting up deductions (taxes and others) and then all the information can be imported into tax programs or printed out in reports. Quicken also helps you keep track of where your money goes and where you are with your budget, with reports that are easier than ever to call up. I didn't try setting up this version of Quicken to coincide with tax forms, but overall, if you have used Quicken before and plan on doing more banking on-line or have a need to keep track of more investments, then it's well worth the money to upgrade to Quicken 2003 Premier. If you just need a program to keep track of your checking and savings accounts, you might try Quicken 2003 basic.

Quicken Premier 2003 is a product of Intuit. The MSRP is \$80 and there is a \$10 rebate. The price at Costco is even less. ■

**XP Professional** - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

### Bigger Is Better

When will Microsoft abandon dialog boxes that are relatively tall, narrow, and small in size? Almost all monitors are 4-wide by 3-high (such as 1024x768 resolution). Make 640x480 pixels the minimum resolution for any dialog box that contains lines of text such as file names. Of course, I realize that the opposite will happen. Handheld computer and mobile phone hardware will drive the design of ever-smaller interfaces and less usable interfaces. Please, bring back the Microsoft Usability Labs...

### Conclusion

There are a great number of improvements in Windows XP Professional. Gamers will benefit tremendously by the jump from Windows 98 or Millennium. Windows 2000 users will have to decide whether to upgrade now or wait until they purchase a new computer. New computer buyers should not look back and buy Windows XP, the best Microsoft operating system so far.

You can contact me at  
[NOCCCReview@SingularityTechnology.com](mailto:NOCCCReview@SingularityTechnology.com).

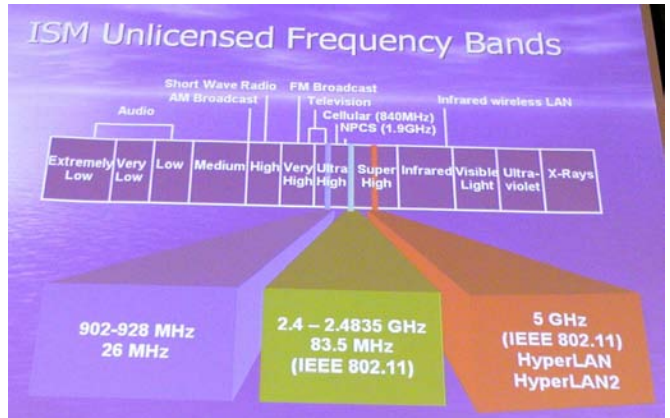
Microsoft Windows XP Professional Price: \$300 for full version (\$200 upgrade).

Microsoft Corporation (<http://www.microsoft.com/>) ■

# Main Meeting Presenters Ted Turner and Joe Vezeau



Ted (on left) and Joe (below), discuss the pros and cons of wireless connections. The quality of the Belkin products sold by CompUSA were highlighted.



The audience listened with interest as Joe and Ted explain the new 802.11g version of Wi-Fi that can sustain up to 54 Mbps.

Photographs by George Margolin

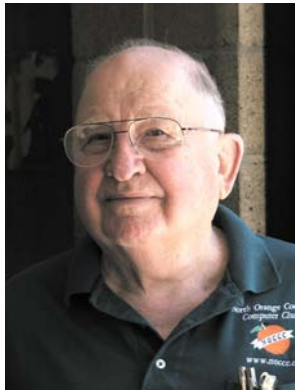
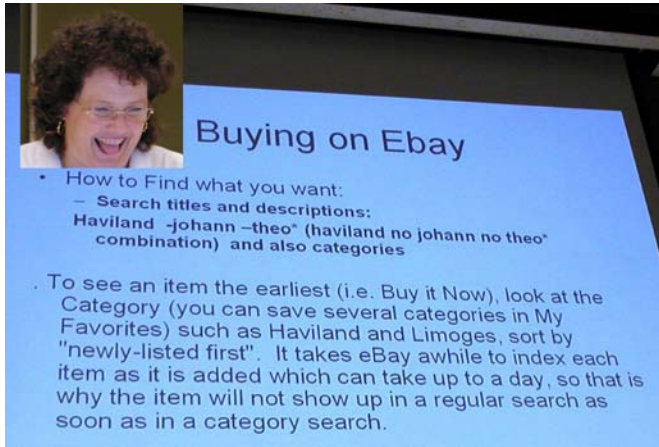




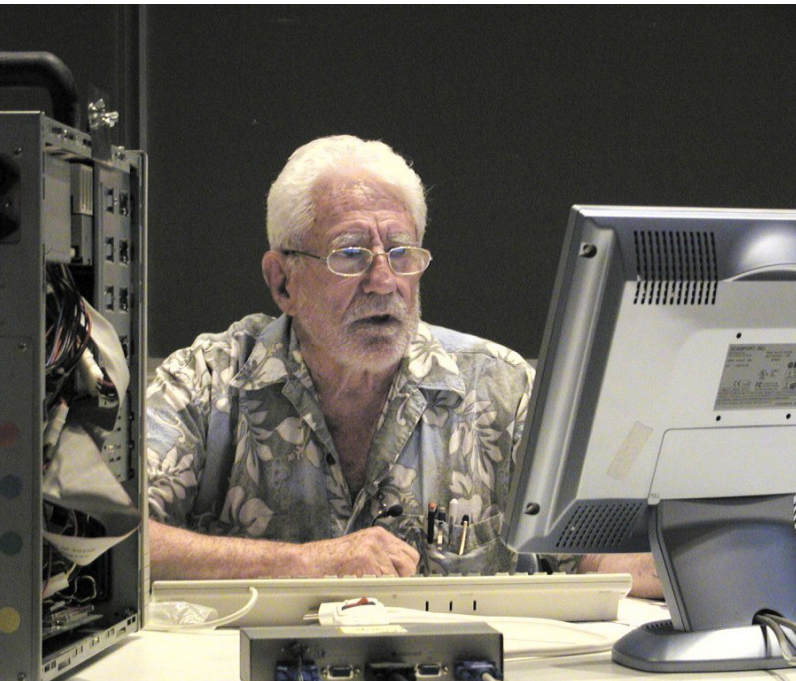
Cathy Margolin presented a tutorial on how to use eBay at the New Technologies SIG

Go Girl!

Now what discription would sound best???



Construction at Chapman University makes getting to the SIGs in Wilkinson a bit of a challenge.



SIG Leader Jack Donan and speaker Kevin Carson at the Digital Photography SIG in Irvine Hall





## XP Professional - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

RAM. This is the worst possible item to scrimp on. If there is insufficient system memory (RAM), Windows will write segments of memory to the hard disk drive and reuse the physical memory. This is called paging (or memory swapping). A special file named pagefile.sys is used by Windows to store this data. When the page-file data is required, system memory must be freed (by swapping current system-memory data to the pagefile.sys) before the page-file segments can be read back into RAM. This is horribly slow for a microprocessor and can be avoided by supplying sufficient RAM.

Windows XP is not very different in hardware requirements from Windows 2000. Any new or recent microprocessor should be adequately fast. Don't forget to have lots of RAM. Existing computer should preferably have at least 256 megabytes of RAM, but if you plan to upgrade the amount, go for at least 512 megabytes (a gigabyte might not be unused). Multimedia application requirements will test the best of systems, regardless of the operating system, so plan accordingly.

### Text Presentation

Icon placement and the size of label text has always been a severe weakness in the Windows Desktop appearance. Formerly, simple changes in the default text size (Display Properties dialog box, Appearance tab, Font Size drop-down listbox) could wreak havoc to the appearance of desktop icons and their label text. Text would overlap each other and be hidden by other desktop objects.

Windows XP makes major advances in reducing this problem. For example, desktop text is now white with a fine black outline so it is more readable with many different background images. The text is still truncated in a text box, but a tool tip pops up to display the entire filename. This is a major improvement. It is a subtle change, but it markedly improves usability.

### ClearType

ClearType technology allows LCD (liquid crystal display) panels to display text with moderately enhanced character formation. By addressing sub-elements in each pixel and combining them with adjacent sub-elements, curves can appear smoother due to the reduction of those little "jaggies" that we have seen for years. This effect is only available for text, not graphics. Even though this technology was designed for LCD displays, Microsoft marketing materials claim there may be some benefit for CRT based displays. For more information go to <http://www.microsoft.com/typography/cleartype/>.

### Common Dialog Box

Common Dialog Boxes are universally available Windows objects that facilitate file operations such as opening (or saving) a file, font selection, color selection, etc. In past generations, when the menu File and Open was selected, a common dialog box appeared in the traditional fixed default size. Moving and resizing the dialog box was possible.

Subsequent requests to reuse the dialog box resulted in the box re-appearing with the default size and placement. Since the filenames and other information are probably truncated, you again resize and relocate the dialog box. Repeat this process, ad infinitum.

Windows XP generally resolves some of the common dialog box-reuse issues. The common dialog box will reappear as the user last configured it. This is a solution that has been used by many independent software developers for around two decades, which in computer years is - forever! Giant corporations can change!

This is one of the best interface changes to Windows XP. It is subtle, but significant in increasing usability. All dialog boxes should behave more like the new common dialog boxes!

Here's the rub. When I first installed XP, Windows Explorer resumed its last position and size when re-opened. Suddenly its behavior changed, now it reverts to standard Microsoft default size and position (approximately 640x480, staggered from the upper left-hand corner). That's right, it worked correctly and for some unknown reason now it assumes annoying behavior.

Second, most dialog boxes, text boxes, list boxes, and other controls do not correctly display longer filenames in a useful fashion. They are usually truncated in a text box that cannot be resized. Microsoft must find a great solution to this pandemic interface problem if they intend to have one interface for hundreds of different devices (desktops, handhelds, cell phones, televisions, refrigerators, etc.).

### Windows Explorer

Windows Explorer incorporates a new mini-application. It expands upon the way you can view files (particularly images). Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find even when you know what you are looking for.

Prior versions of Windows (Windows 2000, Millennium) provided a Thumbnails view of files in a folder. That alternative (to Icons, List, Details, etc.) displays row after row of postage-stamp size images. This is very helpful in finding a particular image that you seek. Windows Explorer creates, displays, and stores (in a small database) a miniature copy of each original image in that folder. It can also create an image from some video files.

New to Windows (XP) Explorer is a Filmstrip view. It displays a thumbnail size image of a series of files and a much larger image of the selected file.

To display Filmstrip view, just go to the toolbar and click...in your dreams... It goes something like this... Open the menu bar Tools, select Folder Options, find Tasks Show common tasks in folders, click OK, and wait. Wait. Wait. Open the menu bar View, select Customize this folder, select Customize tab, What kind of folder do you want? Select one (ex. - Pictures (best for many files)), and click OK. Open the menu bar View and select Filmstrip.

This view shows a row of small thumbnail images of several files (if it is an image file type) along the bottom of the





screen. A single larger image of the selected file is displayed. This larger image is at the full resolution of the file or it is reduced to fit the available space in the Windows Explorer window. The number of thumbnails displayed is likewise limited to the window width.

Buttons are available to advance to the next image or go back to the previous image. Another pair of buttons allows you to rotate the image clockwise or counter-clockwise. I have seen warning messages that rotating the image will cause Windows Explorer to overwrite the original image with the rotated version. This will be bad. However, like Windows is prone to doing, that message no longer appears. Kind of like a bug. (Consistency is king.)

Be certain that the toolbar Folders and Search panes are closed. Look for Picture Tasks. Click View as a slide show. The Windows Explorer now blanks the screen and shows one image at a time. If no files are selected, all the images are shown. If a number of images are selected, they are shown. You can even create folders with files and use those for slide shows.

Open menu bar View and select Tiles. This view shows three lines with a few particular file details. Depending upon the filename length, JPGs show filename, image resolution (ex. - 1024x768), and, sometimes, the text "JPEG Image." Multimedia files may show filename, launching application (ex. - "ATI File Player"), and file size.

Perhaps in the next version, Microsoft will allow you to close the menu selections pane (when Tasks Show common tasks in folders is enabled) so there will be more room in the Windows Explorer window. Now you must open menu bar Tools, select Folder Options, select the General Tab, find Tasks, click Use Windows classic folders, and click OK. Of course, now you can no longer use the Filmstrip view and slideshow features.

Overall, this is a very nice upgrade to Windows Explorer.

### Points To Ponder

I'll briefly point out a few of the best and widely discussed new features in Windows XP.

Remote Assistance allows a trusted someone to take over your computer desktop (via a remote connection from another computer) in order to correct a problem or run an application. Now you can get help from someone afar without the long drive.

Restore Points allow you to go back to a prior configuration of application/device-driver installation. This will allow you to seemingly "uninstall" software to a prior "restore point."

Multiple user logins allow you to configure desktop features (icons, background, etc.), available applications, accessibility, etc. for multiple users. This gives multiple personalities to different users. Better yet, multiple users can simultaneously use the computer and switch between logins. Each account will appear to be a different computer! One could run games, another spreadsheets, and another read

<http://www.noccc.org/>! Switching back and forth requires a few seconds instead of a few minutes.

### Taskbar Bugs

The Taskbar does not auto-hide correctly anymore. There are many times when the Taskbar inappropriately pops out and will not close. It should close when you select the application that wants to become the focus. Many times, I find I have to click on all the applications and then go back to an application before the taskbar will auto-hide, as it should. It worked much better under Windows 2000 (and Windows 98), but now it is broken.

Taskbar, take two. Office 2000 introduced the animated paper clip. It popped up and annoyed until the subsequent search ritual provided the method to disable it. Windows XP introduces popup informational messages in the taskbar.

After every reboot, I get a stream of the same messages like the following. "Low Disk Space. You are running out of disk space on S380021#2P1 (K:). To free space on this drive by deleting old or unnecessary files, click here . . ." I know the drive is full. I bought that drive because the other two were also full.

The message pops up and I quickly race the mouse over to the corner and click to close it. Another pops up for a different drive and I quickly race the mouse over to the corner and click to close it. There doesn't seem to be a way of disabling these messages. It's like playing Whack-A-Mole at Chuck E. Cheese's! (I wonder how that translates outside the U.S.?)

### Sounding Off

How do I turn off the sounds in Windows Explorer? There is no need for the belated "tukkh" echo that Windows discharges through the speakers every time folders are changed. Windows XP's audible feedback that is out of synchronization with the user's actions is annoying. Besides, visual cueing occurs as the files in the folders actually change as I switch folders!

Don't click on a folder that Windows doesn't permit access to (ex. - System Volume Information). It will play an overly loud sound that is seems like a synthesizer cross between a piano or guitar chord, and a gong.

These sonic feedbacks force me to completely shut off the Volume Control - Wave volume. Now I can't hear important sonic messages like the end of CD-R burns, errors signals in major applications, etc. Unfortunately, it is all or nothing. Sonic feedback is fantastic to wake us up when the process takes more than a few moments, perhaps a few minutes or longer.

It's time for Microsoft to breakdown and redesign this core Windows function. Let's start with obvious things like 65 thousand separate sound channels so that each application can allow every sound to be individually controlled for volume.

Continued on page 15



# 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](mailto:reviews@noccc.org)
- [TedLit@Adelphia.net](mailto: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.

### Boxed Programs and CDs

**StudioQuartet** – Ulead's new complete digital media production suite for professional videographers. Includes PhotoImpact 8, MediaStudio Pro 7, DVD WorkShop AC-3, and Cool 3D Studio. System requirements are Windows 2000 or XP, P4 2.0 GHz CPU, DVD-ROM drive, 512 MB RAM, Dual Head (AV Out) Graphics card, 2 GB free hard drive space for installation.

**Backup for Workgroups 1.0** – A new backup & disaster-recovery program for small & mid-size businesses using a disk-based backup program with Windows.

**Roxio's Go Back 3 Deluxe** – Travel back in time on your computer to undo

PC problems & restore the system to normal operations.

**Stomp's Record Now Max 4.0 Platinum** – "Simply the finest set of tool available for creating CDs & DVDs."

**Easy Uninstall 2.0** - Aladdin System's easiest & most complete uninstaller for 1-click disk cleanup.

### Programs to Download from Vendor's Web Site

**RedBox Organizer 5.0** – Award-winning Personal Information Manager for Windows with a comprehensive set of simple-to-use utilities.

**WinPatrol Plus 4.0** – A popular program from BillP Studios that monitors & detects changes on your computer system. Alerts you when any new programs are added without your permission.

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

**Essential Net Tools 3.1 for Windows** - A suite of network tools.

**Apycom Java Menu Applets 3.0** - Create cross-browser drop down menus, bars, buttons, etc. for your Website.

**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.

**Kaspersky Labs Anti-Hacker 1.0** –

A personal firewall from Russia.

Designed to ensure reliable defense of home computers from Internet hackers, wherever they are.

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

**PicaLoader 1.1 for Windows** – A fully automated, multi-threaded, link-following, picture-retrieving robot that will retrieve all the pictures you want from any part of the Internet.

**Vicman's Photo Editor Pro 7.0** – A powerful, easy-to-use photo editor from Russia with an intuitive, skin-based interface & lots of powerful features.

To view the most recent list of available products, e-mail to [items@noccc.org](mailto:items@noccc.org). The list will autorespond to you. ■

## 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, even for a novice?
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, 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? 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 Cathy Margolin (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 look forward to seeing your review in print and on the Web site. ■

## Main Meeting Report

By Eric Saca, NOCCC

In July, we had a very special presentation on wireless networking from Joseph Vezeau, NOCCC member and Project Manager at CompUSA. Joe also brought a partner presenter, Ted Turner (no, not the cable TV mogul).

The meeting was opened by our enthusiastic returning President, Cathy Margolin. Cathy mentioned that her goal is to make the club more vibrant this year. Our motto is "Friends Helping Friends" and we should strive for that ideal.

An impressive set of items was announced for the raffle, including a Belkin wireless access point and router. A new CD was announced, containing all issues of our Orange Bytes from 2001-2003. It was selling for a mere \$10.00.

Cathy announced the upcoming Summer Volunteer Pool Party at the Margolin residence on August 3rd (2 PM). (Of course, other members and friends were also welcome, not just volunteers.) The August meeting was moved to August 10th because Chapman University facilities were not available on the 3rd.

Alan Pearlman, our Secretary and President Emeritus, announced the official green NOCCC T-shirts for \$28.00.

Cathy introduced Joe Vezeau and Ted Turner. Joe mentioned that they were discussing practical wireless networking installation and security. There are many possible wireless solutions, but Joe and Ted were just focusing on practical scenarios for home networking.

There are two different implementations of Wi-Fi, or wireless

networking (IEEE 802.11b & 802.11g). They are wireless networking, providing connections for mobile users, and wireless bridging, providing connections between two or more networks.

Joe and Ted were mainly demonstrating two Belkin wireless product types: access points and routers. In addition, each of these product types has an IEEE 802.11b version and a new 802.11g version. The 802.11b version can sustain data rates of up to 11 Mbps (megabits per second). The new 802.11g version can sustain up to 54 Mbps. These speeds are in half-duplex mode, i.e., when data travels only one direction at a time between devices. (By contrast, full-duplex mode involves bi-directional travel.)

For backwards compatibility, the 802.11g products can connect 802.11b systems, although their connections will run at a maximum 11 Mbps data rate (of course). When the 802.11g products are connecting 802.11g systems only, then the network speeds can reach up to 54 Mbps. In terms of distance, both 802.11b and g have a maximum range of 1,500 feet between devices (depending on many factors). However, as a rule of thumb, the greater the speed, the shorter the possible distance.

Wireless access points have one wired connection for a system's network cable. Dozens of other systems can connect to them wirelessly (using wireless network cards). They can act like both hubs and bridges. They act like hubs to connect systems in a star-type network. They act like bridges when used to link two or more networks.

Wireless routers are like the access points, except that they have five or more jacks for wired network connections. Thus, they can connect several wired systems (such as file servers or even hubs, routers and switches) to dozens of wireless

systems.

Wireless network devices connect using simple Radio Frequency (RF) signals, just like cordless telephones. Such signals can be transmitted on different channels. Belkin's wireless access points and routers can be set to connect on eleven different channels. This offers the flexibility needed to expand a wireless network.

For example, two access points can be installed on two different sides of a building. The access point on one side can be set to channel 1 and the access point on the other side to channel 6. This can double the number of wireless systems connected to the network in that building. A group of systems can be connected to one access point through channel 1 and an equally large group can be connected to the other access point through channel 6.

As long as the signals are at least five channels apart, they will not interfere with each other. Thus, two access points set to channels 1 and 2 will interfere with each other, but two access points set to channels 1 and 6 will not. Neither will access points set to channels 6 and 11. Thus, eleven different channels offer a good amount of flexibility in configuring wireless networks.

The option to configure different channels also allows wireless networks to avoid interfering with other wireless devices, such as cordless phones.

Ted noted that wireless RF signals can be inhibited by water, plaster, insulation and several other materials. People should be aware of those factors when attempting to install wireless networks at home.

He demonstrated how to configure the channel and security settings for a Belkin access point. He simply did it with a web browser – Microsoft Internet Explorer. He entered the address of the access point into Internet Explorer, then the configuration screen appeared.

Next, Ted explained some concepts

about maintaining wireless network security. Most, if not all, wireless products on the market offer a standard security protocol known as WEP – Wireless Encryption Protocol. Activating the WEP feature on a network can cause a very slight network performance drop. However, after using these devices for many years, Ted really never experienced a big difference between having WEP on or off.

The problem with this security standard (WEP) is that each company interprets – and thus implements it in different ways. This includes all major manufacturers, such as Belkin, Cisco and Linksys. Currently, it is almost impossible to implement WEP on a network with components from different vendors (such as wireless network cards, access points and routers). In other words, to get WEP to work successfully, all network components would have to be purchased from the same vendor. (Presently, IEEE is working on a new protocol, 802.11x, to make WEP versions compatible between vendors. However, that may take years.)

Apart from using WEP, Ted offered several ideas to implement security on wireless networks. These included the following:

- Limit the range so intruders cannot physically get close enough to access the network.

- Use the MAC Address Control List to lock down the set of MAC addresses that can access the network. This list is on the access point and router configuration screens, updated with a web browser. Every system's network card has a unique physical MAC address. (MAC stands for Media Access Control.) If a wireless device is given a set of MAC addresses to access the network, then only the network cards with those addresses will be able to gain access. All other cards will be locked out.

Ted noted that different network card manufacturers implement their 12-digit MAC addresses differently. Some use dashes between their numbers, e.g., 00-

04-5A-6B-D0-57. Others use colons (:) between numbers, e.g., 00:04:5A:6B:D0:57. Others use other symbols. When entering MAC addresses in the MAC Address Control List, that must be taken into account. Addresses must be entered exactly as they are specified by their manufacturers. To display the MAC address for a particular card, Windows offers two commands: `ipconfig /all` and `winiipcfg`.

- Turn off the Broadcast SSID setting (from the device's configuration screen). By default, this is set on for all Belkin wireless devices. It enables these devices to announce their availability to all nearby wireless systems. Then when a system detects the live access point or router, its user can connect to the network.

- Configure a unique SSID. Any wireless system not set with this SSID will be locked out of the network. In this way, the SSID essentially acts like a password. It can be set from the wireless device's configuration screen with a web browser.

- Turn on 54g only mode. This is possible with the 802.11g access points and routers. In 54g only mode, just the systems with 802.11g capability can access the network. Unfortunately, this is not an option for people who still have 802.11b devices on their networks.

- Limit the IP address range that can access the network. This could not be done with Belkin's wireless access points and routers. It would have to be configured with other components, such as file servers, wired switches or wired routers.

A member in the audience said that he was on an IEEE 802.11b network and the Internet surfing speed seemed fine. He asked Ted what the real advantage was for the new 802.11g. Ted said that 802.11b is fine for just web surfing but when it comes to file transfers, 802.11g is much preferred. The speed difference is very noticeable on file transfers.

Another member asked what advantage Belkin's products offer over those of other manufacturers. Ted

replied that Belkin offers Staple Packet Inspection on all its wireless products. This feature verifies the order of packets transmitted on the network and thus, offers another slight security advantage over other vendor's wireless products.

Ted and Joe also presented several wireless network adapters, to accommodate desktop PCs, USB connections, laptops and even PDAs.

Next Meeting - August 10th NOCCC will be hosting Patrick Crispen, co-author of famous Internet Tourbus . The Internet Tourbus, ([www.tourbus.com](http://www.tourbus.com)) an online free email newsletter published twice a week, and read by about 100,000 people in 130 countries around the globe. They explain Internet technology in plain English, with a dash of humor. Since 1995, Tourbus riders have been getting the scoop on Search Engines, Spam, Viruses, Cookies, Urban Legends, and other topics. Patrick works at CSUFullerton. and will also go over advanced Goggle searching! He is a very engaging speaker, so don't miss this one!

Patrick will also be the speaker at the Digital Photo sig at 2:30 on Photoshop■

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## Digital Photography SIG

*By Jack Donan, NOCCC*

Our July meeting started with a quick demonstration of Jasc's Paint Shop Photo Album 4 in which its main features were briefly activated. A copy of this software was raffled (won by ?? ?) A second copy will be raffled in August.

There were seven professional looking Christmas card in response to our home project. The consensus winner was that of Alice Sibert with her grandchildren as ornaments on the tree.

*Continued on page 24* 

Time did not allow us to properly show them. It is requested that they and others that didn't make it bring them back for a second showing at the August meeting.

The second "From the Members" presentation will be sets of 'before and after pictures' modified by computer software. It is expected that some of our directors will try their hand at this as well.

The July program, intended to be strictly Q&A- digital cameras, veered to the left and then to the right as non camera questions arose. We ended up going over enlarging, memories, scanning, printers and then cameras and their lenses. A few high lights follow.

Kevin Carson, our speaker advocated incremental enlargement in preference to either fractal expansions or one jump bicubic enlargements. Unlike the baby step approach we PhotoSigers were previously introduced to, limited to no more than 2% bicubic steps up to the goal of (1.02) to the n power (n steps.) He thought a satisfactory result could be achieved in but a few, possibly 25% steps.

For scanners he felt that best results for film and slides come from dedicated film scanners. These scan around 2700 - 2800 DPI. For working on the images, although Photoshop is the ultimate, there are lesser programs that can handle the majority of the graphics manipulations to be done by non professionals..When first storing camera images he recommended to do so in TIFF format. He cautioned to keep your TIFF originals on hand and never perform multiple storage as JPEG files (compressions) as each cycle further degrades the image. When using JPEG, stay at the high end.

His coice of memory is the flash card, pointing out the all around savings of reading into the computer from the card rather than the camera, He mentioned two programs which he associated with scanners, Ice and Silver Fast for such things in addition to dust speck removal. Ice has more features but Silver Fast allows more user control.

He prefers the Epson printers over HP which he does not consider to be a good photo printer. Epson has three grades of printers which can be determined by the number of digits in their identification, two, three and four, four digits in the order of higher quality. An expensive spray can for ink jet printing is Image Shield (\$17) which will both preserve and waterproof the printed image.

For cameras you get what you pay for, up to \$1000 for us amatures. The removable lenses, cast metal SLR bodies are coming down in price but are still for the professionals and priced well above \$1000. The chips sensing the image are smaller than the area we are used to for 35mm film, The Kodak chip is the best available, of a larger area and is used in a number of cameras. Still its relative larger size is smaller than the area of a 35mm exposure.

The non technical preference of using million rather than "mega," as in megapixel, caught this SIG guy by surprise. 67 years ago, as a high school kid, I was salvaging radio parts out of neighborhood trash boxes and mega was already in my vocabulary. I had a 56 megacycle transmitter and the grid leak on my 01A vacuum tubes was always one megohm. However there is a meter outside my house that records the thousands of watt hours of power we use but the bill still says kilowatt hours. Funny how these things go.

The information reported here is from the notes of Cheryl Ware and Ed Koran, thank you both. Bob Brooks, scheduled to give his Photoshop demonstration on photo repair has kindly agreed to postpone his presentation until September to allow us to take advantage of the availability of Patrick Crispen for our August 10 meeting. Mr Crispen, who will be the speaker at the main meeting and has agreed to provide a discussion on teaching Photoshop. Crispen is to teach the use of both Photoshop and Photoshop Elements to the faculty of California State University Fullerton. This is very close to what we are attempting within the constraints of a

one per month SIG meeting. It is expected, with an exchange of ideas that we will learn novel teaching approaches, for this extensive program, from each other. A suggested title for this program is "Learning to Teach the Photoshops."

Brooks program in September will be titled "Photo Repair." ■

## New Technology SIG

By Cathy Margolin, NOCCC

### EBAY Hints and Tips

**BUYING ONEBAY.** Ebay is the largest global marketplace with very low entry cost, so there are millions of sellers putting up collectable, new and used items that you may not be able to find anywhere else! First off you start watching some auctions to get a feel for the process. Then get an Ebay id (do not use your e-mail name as your user-id, the spammers will get it!). Then start bidding on small items to learn the process and develop positive feedback. It all runs on feedback. Also multiple user-ids are still ok. Some people use one for selling and another for buying, so as not to let people know their sources.

**How to Find what you want.** You can search titles and descriptions such as: Haviland -johann -theo\* (which means look for haviland with no johann and no theo\* which is a wild card to ignore any theo—). You can also look under categories to find an item, but remember not everyone puts their article for sale in the correct categories. When the

### Membership Drive

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



seller has tons of items and you want to Only search Palm Pilot, go to seller search, go to the bottom of the page, enter Palm Pilot, and under Multiple sellers, put the person's eBay id (or several id's).

**Bidding.** Use odd numbered cents, such as .99 since the bids go up in increments of 50 cents, \$1 (depending on the value of the bid), you may win an item by just one cent. Always snipe-which is bidding at the last minute. In this auction format, it is only the highest bidder at the close of the auction that wins. If you bid during the week, you keep driving up the price, but bidding at the last second, masks interest, and usually results in a lower cost. You can use a service (www.esnipe.com which charges a fee or hammersnipe at hammertap.com which does not) or use a program on your own computer. Bid the maximum amount you want to spend (proxy bidding – only goes up to this amount if someone places a bid against you). Check out terms of each auction. What form of payment do they take? (money order-cheapest at Post Office), Paypal) What is the shipping cost, as this can be very high! The Post Office uses zip codes to price shipping, so it is now more complicated. Check out seller feedback and what type of items they usually sell.

A set of tips is at the Vendio site (which also has an online bulletin board about ebay auctions). <http://www.vendio.com/service/tipsandtactics/index2.html>

**Set Parameters for Bidding.** Do not bid on sellers with zero feedback, or lots of negative feedbacks. If you are unsure about a seller, Send an email, ask about packaging techniques, shipping costs, better description, more photos and check the Seller's Response or Lack of Response to help you decide whether to bid or not.

**How to Pay?** To help protect yourself, use a credit card if possible, then Paypal, or check (you can stop payment) or lastly a money order. I also ask for double boxing (china only) and

insurance and ask them how much extra. Always buy insurance if you are interested in getting the item. When the item has arrived, don't forget to give feedback to the seller.

Happy Ebay-ing! ■

## Security SIG

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

Seven people participated in a discussion about how powerful a network card (NIC) can be when put into something called "promiscuous mode".

It started with a drawing of a simple LAN design (8 computers and a 8 port hub). I showed what normally happens and what happens when the NIC is in promiscuous mode. How a NIC is put into promiscuous mode is different in NICs from different vendors, so I didn't go into any specifics here. In fact, I'm beginning to realize that I was wrong before. So now on, I'll be going into general ideas instead of specific details (how promiscuous mode works and why it exists instead of just how to put a NIC into it.)

Unfortunately, some System Administrators get alittle upset if they find one of their users using this capability. If you are the SysAdmin, we went over some of the ways to find out which user it is.

Next meeting we will talk about the two main access control models: discretionary and mandatory; basically should we start with no security and add it as we go, or start with the system completely locked down and open it up as we need to? ■



## Office Suites

By John Heenan, NOCCC,  
[jc\\_heenana@q-ware.com](mailto:jc_heenana@q-ware.com)

June's meeting started with an olio of topics from mouse/modem conflicts to revising the text within a graphic. While we were all discussing the modem problem, a young lady came in sat down and listened to our conversation and wished I were Anson Chapman. She left and the guy with the modem problem kept hoping I'd morph into Herb Wong, 'cuz he didn't seem very happy with the answer he was getting either.

Before returning to the Access Order Entry application, there is a shareware program that was worth mentioning. If you had a laptop and used it to connect to different networks, NetSwitcher will be a time saver. NetSwitcher makes it easy to hookup to any network. Download and install on your home network. As it installs, it recognizes your Workgroup and NT Domain names, your phone dialer and TCP/IP settings, your Dial-Up and Ethernet adapters( even if they are PCMCIA cards), Shared folders, Internet Explorer and E-mail client settings. It also lists startup apps included in the MS configuration. You can review each group of parameters, make changes and deletions, and save the setting.

Attach your laptop to another network, and NetSwitcher goes through the same process to identify all the networks adapters, drivers, and parameters. It even lists all printers available. Save and name your new settings. Now, as you move from one location to another, NetSwitcher adds an icon to your Systray so that you can quickly choose from the list of settings. In many situations, you will not have to reboot when changing from one set of parameters to another. If your laptop is mobile, once you've tried it you will agree that NetSwitcher is one of the easiest program you ever used. You'll find it at [www.netswitcher.com](http://www.netswitcher.com) for only

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



\$14.00 for each license.

Back in the world of Office, a question arose regarding replacing certain text within a graphic. The graphic was imbedded as part of a Word document; actually, it was the only item on the document with no text. In some cases like this the graphic can be separated into components that make up the picture, and these components can be altered individually. To test if the picture can be altered in Word, open a word document that contains the picture. Right click on the picture and from the menu choose either Edit Picture or Picture Object > Open. A new window opens with the picture and the Edit Picture tool bar. If the Drawing tool bar is not present at the bottom of your screen, choose View | Toolbars | Drawing. Click the Select Objects tool (That's the White arrow). Draw a square around your picture. If you see more than 8 handles within and around the graphic, this indicates that components within the graphic can be separated and modified within Word. If on the other hand, you only see the standard 8 handles, individual components cannot be changed and you need a special Paint program or photo editor to change the picture. In either case you can use the Drawing Toolbar you can add other components including another picture, arrow, lines and circles. You can add a simple text box or get fancy with Word Art and you can change the color of the components. ■

## PC/MAC Games SIG

By C. Lemire, NOCCC

### SIGGraph LA and Game Production.

Holiday weekends are tough to attend club meetings and this one caught me out of town. Excuses, excuses. Next meeting there are freebies, a video on Microsoft game production,

and the latest from the June meeting of SIGGraph LA at UCLA.

As a preview, if you have never been to a SIGGraph LA meeting you can visit next September after the summer hiatus. The website is <http://la.siggraph.org> for directions and topics. My experience was pleasantly positive driving and parking when considering the goal was UCLA. Costs are doable at 7 dollars for parking and 10 dollars to visit a meeting. The best buy is to join for 35 dollars a year or volunteer to help set up for 3 meetings and get a free membership. The presenters are the current industry trendsetters in movie, animation, and games production and while there is a quick overview of the topic most of the evening discusses the inside efforts and daily risks of production. For instance, the Matrix movies and Enter the Matrix game were designed with interlocking storylines so seeing and playing both reveal more depth about the characters and story events. The game AI delivers what it promises so characters move just as spectacularly as in the live-action AND the original sets, images, and actors were fully involved. (Usually game trailers promise great images and play but do not deliver.) Come to hear more about the Matrix series and Games development! :-)

Next meeting is (I promise) August 10 at 2:30 pm room 221 Wilkinson Hall or email me at [nocccgamingsig@earthlink.net](mailto:nocccgamingsig@earthlink.net). ■

## Genealogy SIG

By John Johnson, NOCCC

I came across an interesting WEB site that deals with early American history. It has digital copies of original writings from the 1700's and 1800's. The site is sponsored by The 1st-hand-history Foundation in the Pacific Northwest, so many of the writings are from Oregon settlers. The site is

[www.1st-hand-history.org](http://www.1st-hand-history.org). Another interesting site is the Texas Land Office. They have many (if not most) of the early county maps of Texas. You can view them on their WEB site [wwwdb.glo.state.tx.us](http://wwwdb.glo.state.tx.us). They also will sell them for either \$20.00 or \$40.00, depending on the largest dimension of the map. One of the maps was drawn by W. S. Porter, better known as O. Henry. Bring your genealogy questions next month and we will try to answer them. ■

## Hardware SIG Report

By Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC  
SIG Leader

The Hardware SIG topic for July 6, 2003 was microprocessor chipsets.

The chipset is like a chromosome for the motherboard. It determines the characteristics that any offspring (motherboards) might have. Each chipset is engineered with components that predetermine (like a chromosome's DNA) the range of features that are possible.

The primary goal of the chipset is to give life to a microprocessor attached to the motherboard. This includes microprocessor bus (ex. – 200/400/800 megahertz, 256-bits wide), RAM (random access memory) interface (ex. – RDRAM, SDRAM, maximum allocation, megahertz), video interface (ex. – AGP 1x/2x/4x/8x), etc.

The secondary goal of the chipset is to provide a range of features that are not dependent upon the specific microprocessor. These include support for types of PCI bus, ATA (ATA100, SATA150), serial port, parallel port, USB, IEEE1394, keyboard, etc.

Chipsets usually are composed of a few chips (instead of a single chip) in order to minimize redesign and retesting of each generation. The two divisions (i.e. - the goals discussed previously

above) are called by Intel, Northbridge and Southbridge, respectively. The two are also associated with their main data transportation routes, the frontside bus and backside bus, respectively.

By understanding the features that are enabled by a particular chipset, you are now empowered to more easily compare features and performance between motherboards that use the same chipset. Conversely, you can easily discover motherboards that are not suitable for a particular system by recognizing chipsets that do not have functionality that is required.

Independent chipset manufacturers attempt to offer more features, performance, and lower cost than Intel brand chipsets.

All manufacturers now compete with chipsets that enable integrated video, audio, network connectivity, IEEE1394, and more. Some fully loaded motherboards are priced well under \$100!

Chipsets for AMD (or other brand) microprocessors are useable for specific microprocessors (but not Intel brand microprocessors). Thus, chipsets are extremely microprocessor specific, even though the microprocessors are capable of seamlessly running the same operating systems and software.

Like any other hardware component, chipsets can affect performance and stability of a computer system. Do your research and read reviews to determine suitable components for your system.

The Hardware SIG topic for August 10, 2003 is Buying and Using Laptop Computers. We'll meet in Irvine Hall at 9:30 a.m. and in Science 109 at 2:30 p.m. ■

## PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

The SIG started off this month with a question from a new member concerning system crashes with Win98. It seems that her suite of normally used applications was working just fine.

Then, for reasons that I don't remember, she downloaded some updates for Win98 from the Microsoft website. The reason could easily have been the result of one of the operating systems modules, like Windows Explorer (note I said Windows Explorer, not Internet Explorer (though that happens as well), calling home to Uncle Bill. When it calls home and finds that there are newer modules available, a screen pops up admonishing you to do an upgrade. Some of the later versions of this procedure take you to the M\$ update web page and almost won't let you say "I don't want to do that." In any event, after doing the update, her system went from crashing occasionally, to crashing a lot. I mentioned that it has been alleged that this is a un-advertised, low key, not very subtle, encouragement plan that M\$ has devised to get users to switch to the far more stable, at least until you do an upgrade, Windows XP.

It turned out she has spent months enduring these crashes, that in trying to solve the problem, almost every piece of hardware in her system had been replaced. This makes it impossible to establish the original base line to start troubleshooting from. She also acknowledged that she thought the working configuration of Win98 contained some Operating System modules that may have been updates from the original install CD, but several versions back from the current version. As M\$ does not make available the older versions, like directX-6 or IE5, if the seldom crashing configuration she wanted to return to relied on one of those versions, it is tough to achieve.

My recommendation was to take her brothers copy of Windows XP, install it on her system, and try it for the 30 days that it will run without "Product Activation." If it does the job, buy her own copy and see if she can get away with an "over install." If not, format and start over. I can almost hear the screams of "Yabut my favorite program won't run in XP, or the piece of hardware I use only has a driver for Win98." Both good reasons to keep that old machine around, to NOT do

those "updates" unless you are sure you can go back to the working configuration. But if you goof, and find yourself in a similar bind, in at least some cases, another club member will probably have a copy of the older version of "module X" that you need. One way of finding out is to get up at Random Access Time at the beginning of the 1 PM Main Meeting and ask your fellow club members. There is a good chance that you will get to experience "Friends Helping Friends."

The rest of the SIG dealt with recording sound on to the hard disk. On most systems, if the speaker icon exists on your task bar, and you right click on it, a window pops up that gives you the option of clicking on "Open Volume Controls" or "Adjust Audio Properties." If you click on the former, a window pops up titled "Play Control." This screen is your mixer and displays a number of slider controls for volume and balance for the sound sources that you have chose to display in the properties window. The various sound cards on the market, and the drivers for them, will allow you to choose from a list for that particular installation. On my system, with a Sound Blaster Live PCI card, I have ten playback choices. The choices are: Play Control, Wave/MP3, MIDI Synth, CD Digital, PC Speaker, TAD-In, Auxiliary, Microphone, Line-In, CD Audio. If I click on "Recording" in the Properties window, I have a choice of nine inputs: MIDI Synth, CD Digital, "What U Hear," TAD-In, Auxiliary, Microphone, Line-In, CD Audio, Wave/MP3. If you want to do recording on your computer, you need to have at least a basic understanding of how to use these controls. This is before you get into the software that you are going to use, the sampling rates you are going to choose or the format that is best for what you want to accomplish. Larry Klees is going to substitute for me at the August meeting while I attend the Southwest Regional Users group Conference and try to pickup some tips on being a newsletter editor. ■

# 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
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall		2:30	Jack Donan	john.donan <jfdonan@sbcglobal.net>	714-633-4084
PC/Mac Games	Wilkinson	221	2:30	Claire Lemire	NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net	714-740-1058
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1434
New Technology	Irvine Hall	---	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heen@csi.com	714-998-7660
PALM SIG	Wilkinson	111	2:30	Vance Jochim	vjochim@webworks66.com	714-771-6564
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	---	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
				Please report SIG changes to	Herbert Wong, Jr. OCUG@SingularityTechnology.com	714-968-7264

## Benefits from page 3

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Any suggestions for items, e-mail Cathy Margolin at [cgmargolin@pobox.com](mailto:cgmargolin@pobox.com). ■

## NEW Digital Photo SIG

**This Sunday, August 10, at 2:30 in Irvine Hall**

The SIG will be led by Jack Donan

The new SIG covers all aspects of digital images, including, acquisition, creation, modification, improving, correcting and reproducing in various media and formats.

Once again, a copy of the JASC After Shot program will be raffled at the SIG meeting

Bring your digital camera. Each month, we will pick the top 1 or 2 photos taken somewhere at the club meeting and submitted for review. They will be published in the Bytes with a "Photograph by John Doe" byline.

Patrick Crispin will not only be speaking at the Main Meeting, but at our SIG. His topic will be PhotoShop.

If you have a favorite before and after photo you want to show off, bring it in. ■

# 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 [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org) with additions, deletions, or corrections.



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

The NOCCC Help Line names and numbers are in the printed version of the Orange Bytes that is mailed to all members.

## FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed on the Internet, visit the *Classified Ads* section of our website at: [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org) or contact Jim Sanders at [jsanders@ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com)

Club members are also welcome to post "Wanted" or "For Sale" notices on the kiosk, but please do not tape them on doors, windows, or walls.

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



# Windows XP Pro: The Missing Manual

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC, [jimless@adelphia.net](mailto:jimless@adelphia.net) and [jimless@netscape.net](mailto:jimless@netscape.net)

Windows documentation has not improved over the years along with the improvements in Windows. With Windows XP you get no user guide at all. The Missing Manual series is a welcome filler for that obvious gap. Besides, in the bathroom, you can't use the often puzzling online help, but you can read this book.

One of the three authors, David Pogue, is the weekly computer columnist for the New York Times and the creator of the missing manual series. He has coauthored 25 books including six in this series and six in the "For Dummies" line. In his other life, David is a former Broadway show conductor, a magician, and a pianist.

Craig Zacker has worked extensively on the integration of Windows NT into existing networks. He has also developed online training courses for the web. See <http://www.zacker.com>.

L. J. Zacker began working with mainframe computers in the mid 1980's and has since worked as a network administrator, programmer, and security consultant for mainframe systems and PC LANs. Now a fulltime author and editor, he has contributed to numerous books and articles including Microsoft Press, SAMS publishing, and Windows 2000 magazine.

The books in the Missing Manual series are superbly written guides to computer products that don't come with printed manuals, "which is just about all of them." Their delightful promise to never use an apostrophe in the possessive word its, should endear the authors to all the well educated. Forthcoming books, if not already on the shelves, include Dreamweaver MX, XP Home, Photoshop Elements 2, AppleWorks 6, and three others for the Macintosh faithful.

The five major sections begin with The Desktop that examines everything you see on the screen when you turn on the computer. Everything.

The second section, Components of Windows, describes how to work with applications in Windows: launching programs, switching between them, exchanging data between programs, using them to create and open files, and so on.

The third, Windows Online, addresses all the Internet features of Windows including setting up your Internet account, Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, chatting or videoconferencing with MSN messenger, and so forth.

Part four, Plugging into Windows XP, explains the system's relationship with peripherals—scanners, cameras, disks, printers, and more.

Fifth and last, Life on the Network shows you how to build

your own network either at home or in a small office. And, as the boys put it, if you work in a corporation where some highly paid professional network geek is on hand to do the troubleshooting, these chapters show you how to exploit XP's considerable networking prowess.

In the back of the book, there are appendices giving a complete guide to installation, a thorough description of each submenu item, and an extensive index.

The earthy clarity, numerous and appropriate illustrations, light-hearted delivery, and comprehensive coverage all coalesce into a welcome—even necessary—addition to the library of any XP user.

The MSRP is a nickel short of \$30 (User Group members can get a 20% discount from O'Reilly), but you can get it at <http://www.amazon.com> for only \$21. Add enough purchases to top \$25 and Amazon gives free shipping. Not found at Barnes and Noble site. Maybe my search technique needs upping.

Hugely favorable reviews averaging 4.25 out of 5.00, albeit with a full MSRP, can be found at <http://www.anybook4less.com/detail/059600348X.html>. The only detractor prefaced his unjustified [in this writer's opinion] remarks with his obvious and oblivious misspelling of conscience in, "I can't in good conscious recommend this book . . ." So much for the quality of The Unconscious Lone Disser.

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**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](http://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

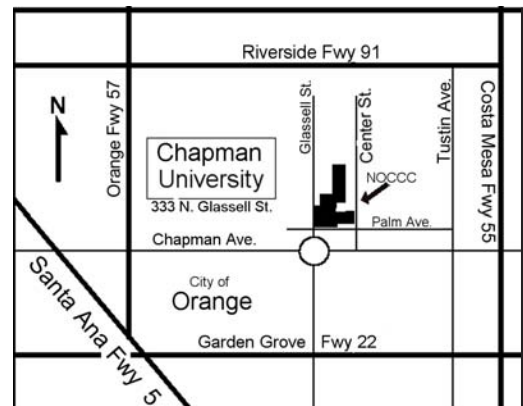
- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner 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. 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 committee, 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

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**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**