Orange Bytes

Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club *

Digital Photo Day

The North Orange County Computer club is having a special Digital Photography day with with two meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon. For additional details see page 4.

NOCCC Meetings - October 3

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

9:00 a.m.
Autocad .... *Science 203*
Computer Essentials .... *Science 111*
Linux for Desktop Users .... *Wilkinson 111*
Visual Programming II .... *Science 109*
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:30 a.m.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES - CAMERAS ..Irvine Hall
How to use the camera you own - bring it to the meeting
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Linux (Intermediate) .... *Wilkinson 111*

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 111*
Visual Programming III .... *Science 109*
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.
Computer Security .... *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts .... *Wilkinson 111*
Macintosh .... *Wilkinson 221*

Office Suites .... *Science 111*
Office suites applications
PC Q & A - Jim Sanders - CAMERAS Irvine Hall
More on using your digital camera with your computer
Understanding Operating Systems .... *Science 306*
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV .... *Science 109*
Office 97 VB for Applications programming.

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

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall
CAMERAS - THE DIGITAL PHOTO GUY - Lee Otsubo - everything you ever wanted to know about Digital Photography

2:30 p.m.
Digital Imaging SIG - CAMERAS .....Irvine Hall
Improving your images using Paint Shop Pro
Genealogy .... *Science 111*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
OS/2 News and Installation .... *Science 203*

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

Meeting Dates
Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 6

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* Best in USA and Second in world - APCUG 2003, Grand Prize - SWUG 2004   Founded April 1976

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**Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups**

North Orange County Computer Club
**Founded
April
1976**

"Friends Helping Friends"

FREE COMPUTER CLASS

The MarketPlace Education Center at 201 E. 4th St. in Santa Ana, is offering a free PC computer workshop class. You can start attending at any time. The class covers just about all aspects of personal computing, software, hardware, building new machines, upgrading/ fixing the machine you have. The class is held Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 AM till noon in room 211. Jim Sanders is the instructor. Call the **Centennial Education Center** at 241-5700. The class number is 64200.09

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following positions:

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

By Cathy Margolin

Congrats to Jim Sanders and his editorial team for winning the GRAND prize at Southwest User Group Conference for Newsletters over 12 pages. The competition was very tough and NOCCC achieved the Grand price- thanks for all their hard work!

The September meeting went very well. Steve Bass, of PC World, had lots of helpful hints for the PC Annoyances that always bug you. I emailed out his links to all current members with valid e-mails. If you did not get the Bass e-mail, let us know at treasurer@noccc.org and we can add your correct e-mail. Many times we get discount offers with a very short time span, so I e-mail out the notice, so our Members can benefit from it. I had heard that when Belkin had done their User Group Discount Promotion for a week that the sales were over 6 figures. User Groups do have an impact!

Read my article on the Win XP Service Pack 2, before you install the patch, and it will help guide you. Always backup your system before you do anything major. It is a good thing to do but it does take some managing.

Things are ever changing in the computer industry. Roxio sold off their software business (Easy CD Creator, old MGI PhotoSuite which was rolled into Easy Media Creator, etc) to Sonic Solutions (MyDVD). Two years ago they bought the assets of Napster, so they are changing the name from Roxio to Napster and continuing to sell music over the Internet. Jasc just announced that they are splitting PaintShop Pro into two versions with version 9 (see http://www.noccc.org/members/benefits.html for the latest benefits list- over 20 pages long with both Jasc and Trend Micro PC-Cillin Internet Security listed for discounts) the PaintShop Pro 9 and the Studio 9 which is more consumer oriented.

John Donan has informed us that he is retiring from leading the Digital Photography SIG, one of our important Special Interest Groups.

And while we understand his desire to reduce his efforts and the time he has taken to provide information for each of the presentations, we will miss his excellent contribution to NOCCC.

Thank you John Donan, for your establishing of the Digital Photography SIG. And we hope that when you can find the time, you will share some of your knowledge and insight with its old (that's old in duration, not age, guys, so don't get upset) SIG member and new SIG Leader, Jim Morrison.

Membership Benefits

Member Discounts and Benefits
As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and 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 website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes (membership@noccc.org) so you can get the jump on all the great Reviews and Articles!

Cheap Webhosting and domains
Matt McCann, who you know about from previously being at Intuit, makes inexpensive web hosting ($3.95 /mo with free setup) and domain name service ($7.85 /yr using GoDaddy.com) available. Stop by www.ugpro.com and follow the links. You'll be glad you did!

Peachpit Press Books Discount - of 25% can be obtained by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to http://www.peachpit.com to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just make sure you've logged into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

Jasc Software - http://www.jasc.com/usergroups.asp
UG pricing is available by calling 800 622 2793 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central Time and identifying yourself as a UG member. The Promo Code is UG.

Blue Squirrel - www.bluesquirrel.com/
50% off all products - call 800.403.0925 to order & mention user group special pricing.

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 Vezeau).

O'Reilly Books
If you order directly from O'Reilly, http://www.oreilly.com, orders@oreilly.com, or 800-998-9938, you are entitled to a 20% discount (and possibly free shipping). User Group discount code is DSUG.

CuteFTP Pro - APCUG member groups are approved for 20% off list price. This would be $31.99 for CuteFTP Home (down from $39.99) and $47.99 for CuteFTP Pro (down from $59.99). If you'd like a side-by-side comparison of the two, go here on our site: http://www.globalscape.com/cuteftp/homevspro.asp

NOCCC

The board meeting minutes are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members.

OCTOBER 3RD MEETING PREVIEW

NEW TECHNOLOGIES - at 9:30AM will be an open workshop on digital cameras. Bring your own digital camera and it's owners manual. Club members will explain the features you don't understand and show you how to use them.

PC Q&A SIG - at 11:15AM will be an open forum on digital photos. Getting them into your computer, organizing them, viewing them, adjusting them, scanning them, printing them, emailing them, etc. Depends on the questions asked by audience.

MAIN MEETING 1:00PM, Irvine Hall - Our speaker will be Lee Otsubo known as "The Digital Photo Guy."
Lee is a well known professional digital photographer in the Southern California area. His passion at the moment is photographing the Tour de France and other cycling events. Lee puts on seminars at a number of locations, see his website at http://www.thedigitalphotoguy.com, including many SC computer clubs.

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG - at 2:30PM Jim Morrison willing be showing ways to improve your images with Paint Shop Pro. If Lee Otsubo needs more time for the Main Meeeting presentation, the starting time will be later than 2:30PM.

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will feature a Canon I250 color inkjet printer, optical mouse and other items.
The **Member-only FREE** prize (requires wearing badge to get free ticket) will be the WordPerfect 2002 office suite.

Consignment Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.
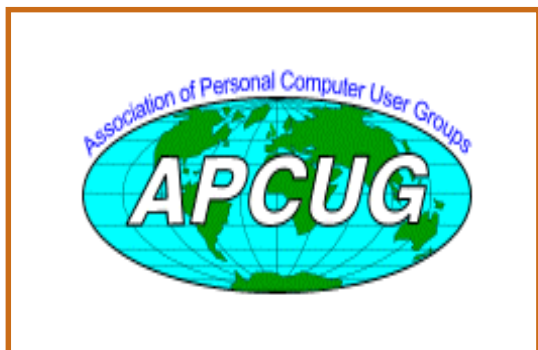
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Do You Need That Fancy Video Card?

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC

teveringham@acm.org

ATI and NVIDIA are pushing their marketing to get you to think you need their latest and greatest video card for your computer. They talk about the substantial increase in performance and tell you will need it. However, do you really need that performance; especially at the high price they are asking?

As with most decisions regarding computer hardware you first determine what of your activities will your computer need to support, then determine which software will be best to support those activities, and then what hardware would be best to support the running of that software. Are you looking at more office activities that would involve word processing, electronic spreadsheets, financial management, database operations, and simple to moderate PowerPoint presentations? Are you looking at more communication and research activities like email, web browsing, or instant messaging? If you fit in just these categories having a video card with substantial 3D capabilities and speed will not be important for at least another 2 years and possibly far longer. For now you only need a low/value level video card costing around $100 or possibly even less. If you want to buy for the future you will only need what is currently a mid-level video card ($150-$250), which will similar capabilities as a low-level/value card in 2 years. As with all video cards you do need to check to see if the card will support your monitor (almost all support those with VGA inputs, but some do not support those with DVI such as LCD panel displays).

What if you are the type of person who wants to edit and create images, pictures, and graphics? This is where you start to look at going to a higher than low/value level video card. Most of this is working with two-dimensional images, but may have some three dimensional elements. You also have to look at image size and color depth (how many bits) your images are going to be, and does your card support those image sizes and color depths at a refresh rate that is nonflickering (at least 85 Hz is best). You also may start to get into what versions of the DirectX and Open GL graphics hardware/software interface standards your video card supports. Still at this point a low-level/low cost card may be best for you.

Now if you are into video, this steps you up to the next level, the middle one ($150-$250). A lot of the video cards at mid and high level have video compression and decompression support. If you have a very fast CPU this may not be as important. However if you are compressing or decompressing for file formats that can have a high com-

pression rate such as Windows Media, MPEG-4, or Divx or doing video conferencing you will probably appreciate all the help you can get. You also have to look at whether you will be displaying HD video from your computer, which again video card assist is something very helpful. Also some other these cards can help with 3D rendering out to file. Also if you like to play 3D games and are not competing with others at a high level playing in games that can be extremely strenuous on a video card, a mid-level card may be best for you. Low-level cards do not play the more recent 3D games very well if at all. I have seen a computer with a low-level card playing the highly 3D graphical Far Cry game, and the screen was so jerky it was almost unplayable. Stepping up to a mid-level card can make a large difference in enjoying your game play.

We now step away from the average computer user. Are you a high-level computer gamer that plays the newest games competing with others online, at LAN parties, or contests and your competition is not the run of the mill, but high level? Do you play or intend to play games that can make computers with high-level video cards have problems keeping up such as Far Cry, Doom 3, and Half Life 2? Do you create and edit images involving 3D and/or creating video and animation for professional work or entering into contests and festivals? Additionally do you don't just look to see if a video card supports DirectX 8 or 9, but if it supports DirectX 9.0a, 9.0b, or 9.0c? If you are one of these people, you are one of the few that should consider buying a high-level video card (higher than $250). These cards not only have the best 3D rendering speed for games, but also the best video compression and decompression support and 3D rendering to file support (some professional workstation video cards may be better for that, but they cost a lot more). But do you want to pay $500-$600 for a video card? Most would say no. That is why within the high level the manufactures have 2-3 sub levels of cards. That means you can get close to highest performance and keep an additional $100-200 in your wallet. However, look carefully because there can be a significant difference in performance between the sub levels of a manufacturers high-level cards (mid and low level categories of cards sometimes have sub levels too, and the same advise holds).

There are a few additional guidelines I would use in choosing a video card. One I would buy a card that uses either an ATI or NVIDIA Graphics Processing Unit (GPU). These are the standards of the industry. Do not match a high level video card with a slow CPU. Your CPU will not be able to feed the card fast enough and you will not get full performance out of your video card. A good rule of thumb on this is to not pay more for your video card than your CPU. You want to match the CPU and GPU, where neither is a choke point to the other. In many circumstances paying about the same for a CPU and a video

card produces a good match. Be aware that a mid-level card can out perform the highest-level card of a previous generation of cards and the price of the two cards may not reflect that. Another thing to consider is we are currently transitioning from AGP slot video cards to PCI Express graphics slot video cards. You might think it will be worth your while to move over to a PCI Express motherboard if you are planning to make major component changes to you computer (getting a whole new computer is probable). You also want to look if a majority of the games you play use DirectX or Open GL. ATI has better performance on DirectX, but NVIDIA has better performance on Open GL. Also look at independent run benchmarks and reviews of video cards, such as found in the Graphics and Displays Section of Tom's Hardware Guide (graphics.tomshardware.com).

Don't be fooled by the hype. You probably don't need a high-level video card. A low or mid-level card is probably right for you. Just discover what you want to do with your computer, find what software will best support that, and then what video card will support that software to the level where you need it. Buy just the video card you need and keep some additional dollars in your wallet.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is Vice President of the Windows Media Users' Group of Los Angeles. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada plus Australia, England, & Japan. He is a member of North Orange County Computer Club. Further information can be found at http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham. ∎

Windows XP Service Pack 2

By Cathy Margolin, NOCCC

Microsoft released Service Pack 2 on August 26th for general downloads and automatic updates. When Windows XP was shipped originally everything was open and now with Service Pack 2 (SP2), many holes are automatically turned off. This is a good thing. It helps to protect you from many of the newest exploits and adds a level of security to your computer that had been missing previously. It has a built in Pop-up blocker, more privacy options, a more robust Firewall, Internet Explorer Information Bar, improved wireless support, upgrades to Windows Media Player, and security tools for Outlook Express.

If you live in the corporate world, you need to manage when things like patches happen to prevent conflicts. Microsoft released a blocker tool called XPSP2BlockerTools.EXE http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=8BCE6BBA-EA5D-4425-89C1-C1CB1CCD463C&displaylang=en

This tool will block the update for originally 4 months, but has been extended to 8 months. Many users have automatic update turned on and this is a way for the corporate world to manage the process.

Since this is also a very large update (278 meg), you might download it first, or order a free CD from Microsoft (http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/protect/cd/confirm.aspx) .

Before you do any updates, you must backup your system. To do the NOCCC live install presentation, I used Norton Ghost to do a bit by bit copy of my hard drive to another hard drive (I have turned all my hard drives into removable hard drives by using the removable drive bays, since hard drives are very cheap these days). Better to be safe than sorry. You also need 1.8 gig of space still left on your drive for the install.

Check your computer for viruses, and spyware (Adaware and Spybot Search and Destroy are two free ones). You may also want to create a System Restore point. Install all Windows updates until SP2. The update install program from windowsupdate.microsoft.com has changed. Select "Custom Install: High Priority and Optional Updates for Your Computer" and download all but SP2.

When you are ready for SP2, turn off any firewalls and virus checkers (Start, Run, MSCONFIG, startup tab, and unselect your virus checker and firewall, then reboot). Make certain you log on an administrator account.

Go to Internet Explorer, Tools, Windows Update and start to install SP2. You can use Custom or Express for SP2. It will take a large amount of time. On my 1 gig laptop, with it on a CD, it took about 40 minutes. It took about the same total time on my 3gig PC using 15 minutes to download the patch using a cable modem. You do need to check it as it goes through the upgrade. When I did mine, it was a good time to clean my desk. Horrors, I know!

It will then restart. I did have problems rebooting my main 3 gig machine, so I went into safe mode and turned off the firewall and virus checker and it finally worked. In the NOCCC meeting, it actually worked!

My presentation to NOCCC can be found at : http://www.netsurfernews.com/WinXPSP2.htm with all the links as clickable.

The firewall did see my Zonealarm and used Zonealarm instead. FTP programs have to be allowed to work such as Control Panel | Security Center | Windows Firewall and under the "Exceptions" tab, you can use the "Add Program" button to add WS_FTP.

If a program does not work with SP2, try adding it to the exceptions tab as above. I learned the hard way about which programs use ports to connect. GoToMyPC uses ports which I did not think of before I had to access the computer it was running on remotely. I had to get someone at the computer's location to allow it as an exception. Seems Photoshop wanted access also for it's help files, so I allowed that as an exception.

But at least I feel better about my security on my PC, even though it does take some maintenance!

Firewalls

By Nick Bolton, Firetrust

A personal firewall is a software application which filters traffic entering or leaving your computer.

When you're connected to the Internet, information is flowing to and from your PC in a near-constant stream through your PC's "ports". There are thousands of "ports" and they are like little gates that let information in and out.

Some of the information moving through the ports is obvious to you. For example, when you:

send and receive emails ;

access a website ;

fill in and submit a form on a website ;

download software like MailWasher Pro or Benign.

However, a lot of information flows to and from your PC without you knowing about it. This can include:

your copy of Windows talking to the Microsoft website to check for security updates ;

software applications talking to their own companies' websites to check for new versions ;

anti-virus software checking for the latest virus updates.

Most of this invisible information flow is good. However, some of it poses a grave threat to your PC and your privacy.

Your email isn't the only way bad things can get into your computer. They can come in through your PC's open ports without you even knowing about them. The "Blaster" worm of August 2003 was the most widespread example of this. In case you don't remember, that was the one that caused your PC to shut down about a minute after you'd started it up!

If you leave your PC's ports open and don't monitor them, you're at extreme risk of the following nasties :

VIRUSES: Programs or pieces of code that "infect" one or more of the programs on your PC. Basically, your programs "get sick" and start performing in weird ways, which sometimes can lead to a system crash.

WORMS: Malicious programs that propagate over a network, reproducing as they go. Worms cause the same effects as viruses but they are more dangerous since they spread by themselves.

PORT SCANNING: Hackers scan the open ports on your PC to figure out if they are open or exist at all. If your computer reports an open port, a hacker can send a worm and virus to it. They can even use an open port to take control of your PC.

COOKIES: Small data files placed on your PC by a website that you've visited. A cookie can store your personal information after you enter it online. For example, if you type in your credit card number, a cookie might store it till you come back next time. This is not a bad idea - most shopping sites use cookies completely legitimately so you don't need to keep entering your personal details. But problems can occur when other people decide to use your credit card too!

TROJANS: Programs that appear legitimate but do some-thing illicit when run. Just like the wooden horse the Greeks gave Troy as a "gift", users mistake the Trojan for a useful or interesting program that they choose to download. Once installed and run, Trojans can secretly open remote access channels to hackers, relay passwords and credit card data or destroy user files. It's similar to a virus but generally does not replicate itself.

DENIAL OF SERVICE (DOS) ATTACKS: This kind of attack happens when a hacker finds a responding port on your PC and sends a huge amount of data to it. The port is just unable to accept all of the data, the system resources exhaust, and the system crashes and denies service.

SPYWARE: These are programs secretly placed on your PC that gather information about you (such as your surfing habits, what other software you have on your PC, etc.) without your knowledge or consent. Spyware is mostly used by on-line or software companies for marketing purposes.

So how does a firewall help to stop all of these bad things from happening?

As I said at the start, a firewall controls communications to and from your PC. It permits or denies communications based on a Security Policy.

According to the security policy you set for it, a firewall can...

make your PC invisible on the Internet. Your ports don't just appear closed, they don't even appear at all. This is very good!

automatically block suspicious incoming traffic ;

alert you every time a program on your PC tries to send information to another computer. This stops spyware and trojans from sending hackers your confidential information, such as credit card details and passwords ;

do a lot more things too, but these are the most basic and important functions it carries out.

So in short, if you don't have a firewall installed, then as soon as you connect to the Web (before you even start your browser or e-mail client) you are open to attack - because some or all of your ports are open and unmonitored. A firewall is especially important if you have a high-speed Internet connection. Hackers love to take over broadband machines because then they can use them to spread spam even faster!

Now you're probably wondering where to get one of these firewalls, aren't you?

Windows XP has its own rudimentary firewall, and the new
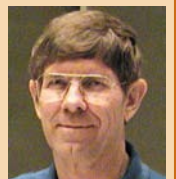
Service Pack 2 turns it on by default. The XP firewall has a major shortcoming, however. It doesn't monitor outgoing traffic, so it's useless at detecting spyware and trojans sending data out of your PC to another computer - like your credit card details!

There are some good firewalls around, including:

Outpost

Zone Alarm

Sygate

Norton Personal Firewall

Norman Personal Firewall

But, the one that we all use here in the office is Outpost Pro, made by Agnitum. We recommend it to our customers - it's a great product. It's easy to use if you're a beginner and if you're more advanced, it gives you lots of different options. It also blocks pop-up ads and conceals your web surfing habits (very important in this age of all-pervading spyware!)

Check out the Outpost website. We've set up a link to it from the Firetrust site:

http://www.firetrust.com/firewall/

You can download the fully-functional program for a free trial of up to 30 days. If you like it (and I think you will), pay the $39.95 price tag. So why risk waiting any longer before you safeguard your PC?

Editor's Note: This article has been reproduced from the monthly newsletter of Firetrust, a great software company in New Zealand.

Phishing

By Nick Bolton, Firetrust

Phishing is a high-tech scam. The "phisher" uses spam or pop-up messages to trick you into giving out sensitive information like your passwords, credit card numbers, bank account information, or Social Security number.

Funnily enough, phishing is nothing new. It used to be known simply as identity theft and the scammers usually did it over the telephone. The scammer would call you up and pretend to be someone from the bank asking you to confirm your account information, credit card numbers, PIN numbers, or passwords. Obviously the scammer was limited by the amount of time it took to ring each person, so identity theft never really took off until the advent of email spam and websites, which meant identity theft has become much more profitable and therefore widespread. Unfortunately, it is now an everyday occurrence.

Here's how phishing works:

The scammer uses spam to send the phishing messages. You'll receive an email or pop-up message that looks like it's from a business or organization that you deal with, e.g.

your Internet service provider (ISP), AOL, MSN, Yahoo, and Earthlink

your bank e.g. Citibank, Westpac

your online payment service e.g. PayPal

a government agency

The message usually says that you need to "update" or "validate" your account information, and there's usually a threat they will do something bad if you don't respond within a short period of time, like close your account or charge you a fine.

So, you click on the link in the email and it takes you to a website that looks just like the legitimate organization's site, but it's a carefully constructed fake. This fake site tricks you into entering your personal information. Using this information, the scammer can then steal your identity and run up bills or commit crimes in your name.

Phishing is becoming big business. In September 2003, the US Federal Trade Commission reported that "9.9 million U.S. residents were victims of identify theft during the previous year, costing businesses and financial institutions $48 billion and consumers $5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses."

Phew, that's a lot of people and a lot of money!

The biggest phishing scam in history occurred in November 2003, when a PayPal phishing message was sent to millions of people irrespective of whether they had a PayPal account or not. The scammers knew that there would be enough people with PayPal accounts to make it worthwhile for them.

So you probably want to know how to avoid phishing scams.

Change your attitude and behavior towards suspicious emails and pop-up messages. Become more vigilant. If in doubt, delete it. That's why MailWasher has a 'Delete' box!

Check carefully the URLs (links to websites) within the email by using the preview pane in MailWasher. They might be links to fake websites.

Even if it is from an institution that you use, like your bank or your ISP, telephone them to confirm that they did indeed send out a message. If the message asks you to enter confidential information about yourself, such as your password or PIN number, it is almost certainly a scam. Institutions like these almost never ask for such information over the Internet.

Don't give your account details to anyone without contacting them first by telephone and making sure the email is legitimate.

Install security software. Nowadays, you need a firewall and an antivirus as much as you need locks on your doors at home. You wouldn't go out leaving all your doors open, would you?

Some phishing emails contain software that can track your activities on the Internet without you knowing about it, so make sure you're screening your incoming mail with up-to-date antivirus software. You need anti-virus software that recognizes the latest threats as well as older ones; that can fix the damage; and that updates automatically. These products are all good bets:

Panda - http://www.pandasoftware.com/

AVG - http://www.grisoft.com/

Kaspersky - http://www.kaspersky.com/

NOD32 - http://www.nod32.com/

Our own product, Benign, protects you even further by re-writing the content of every incoming email and renaming or removing any suspicious attachments.

FrontPage 2003

By Chuck Fete, NOCCC

Introduction:

My name is Charles Fete and I have been a member (on and off) of NOCCC for 26 years. But I had no idea when I started this process of reviewing products, how very hard doing a good job would prove to be. I have had the club's copy of FrontPage 2003 for two months now and I have tried several times to find a way to approach this review. It was suggested that the review be limited to 1500 words, and that it be complete. You can see a definition of complete on the Reviews page of any Orange Bytes magazine. I have concluded that one cannot review a product as stupendous and complex as FrontPage without making a few assumptions. So here goes.

For Word Users:

If you have ever used Microsoft Word, even an ancient version, then I can relate FrontPage to that experience in 1500 words. After all, the two programs are configured similarly and even do many of the same things. I could say, "Now you know how Word does thus and so? Well, FrontPage adds to this and that!"

For HTML or other Web page tool users:

If you have ever used HTML, Arachnophobia or any other HTML tool, all the way up to Perl 6 and its derivatives, or you have gone the other way, toward Live Update and that ilk, then I can write a 1500 word review of what FrontPage will give you over those tools. After all, all these programs accomplish (more or less) the same thing: i.e., constructing a web page. I could say, "you know how you can build a thus and so in Arachnophobia? Here's how to do it in FrontPage and bye the way, these are the extra features."

But I suspect that most readers out there fall in neither category. You may have done your resume in Word or you might have pressed the "view source as" menu item in Internet Explorer and "looked" at some HTML at one time in the past, but what you REALLY want to know is "what is FrontPage going to do for ME?"

So for the rest of this article, I am going to assume that the reader is familiar with the "user's view" of the World Wide Web. In addition, I assume that you are quite familiar with your computer and what it can do. Maybe you even consider yourself, if not a "power user", at least a "talented amateur". If you don't see yourself as "talented", than read no further: this review is not for you. If you see yourself as past the amateur stage, (a power user or above), then wait for one of my next two articles: "FrontPage for Word experts" or "FrontPage for HTML native speakers".

Two analogies:

Now let's begin. Think of what you would like in a software tool. Let's take two analogies you might recognize in the "real world": (a) Painting art and (a) Home building. Now, if I were a budding paint artist, newly with the point of view of using my computer to enhance my painting, I'd want a software tool to let me "Try without Buy" and idea BEFORE committing to it. Furthermore, I probably know what I like, in the way of artistic painting. So it would be great if the tool could analyze existing paintings at a detail level much finer than my vision can determine, and somehow provide me with a palette like Rembrandt's, or Dali's or Picasso's (or you pick your favorite painter and then download their "style palette" as a Plug-in attachment for $49.99). I'd also want the tool to allow me to do a rough draft of my painting and then refine it more and more, in successive editions. Or, I might have an idea for one part of the painting now, so I would like to paint in pieces, and have the tool "sew it together" later.

There are such tools. Almost everything I have described is available (for a price) in one tool or another. Does this sound like a way to construct web sites? i.e., the way an amateur would construct a large painting? Hmmm, well try the next analogy.

Let's say I am a home owner. I have lived in my home for twenty some years and I know the building and the construction, at least, to a small extent. At least I know where the electrical outlets are, which circuit breaker switch operates which plug, where the gas lines are, which are exposed and which are hidden. I might even know something about the plumbing: how long it takes hot water to get to the kitchen faucet, or which bend in the sewer to point out to the roto-rooter man. Now my goal is to add a Den/Guest bedroom. I think I have the space to do it. But I don't know if the load bearing walls are in the right place, or if I will have a nightmare with re-routing electrical or plumbing around doors and windows. I may not know the local code in my city. And I might not even know where to start.

Wouldn't it be great, if there were a software tool I could buy (for about a hundred or so dollars) that would handle those problems for me? Sort of a contractor's assistant? Now I only have the patience (and the money) to add one bedroom, so I don't want a tool that is going to help me start with the chimney in the living room, build out into a hall way and down to the first bedroom, just so I could build one bedroom. Or worse, a tool that starts with "how to tear down the entire existing house" so that you can start again "fresh".

In a lot of ways, that is what many of the existing HTML tools do for you. You want to add to a website, and they start with redefining the home page. When I first came across FrontPage, I was initially worried about

Product Reviews

The Microsoft® Wireless Optical Desktop Pro 2.0

By George Matthews, NOCCC

The purpose of this hardware product is to enable the user to enter or access data on a computer. It consists of a large, impressive keyboard supplemented by a mouse and a receiver. The latter is connected to the computer via either the computer's ps/2 or USB port. The keyboard and the mouse are wireless, communicating the user's hand and finger motions to the receiver by rf transmitters each powered by two AA cells. I misplaced the batteries that were included in the product packaging so I replaced them with AA size NIMH rechargeable, which have functioned perfectly. Don't know how long their charge will last, but see nothing to worry about on that score,

This product, according to the Microsoft web site, is readily available from a number of prominent retailers such as CompUSA, Best Buy, CDW, amazon.com, and buy.com. The lowest price quoted on the Microsoft web site was approximately $80 at the latter two on line sellers and the highest was at Microsoft Information Center in the amount of $104.95. The latter sum is the list price.

The major features of this product are the ergonomic shape of the keyboard, which probably is great for a user who spends hours a day pecking on it, but I am so accustomed to the old style straight line units that I probably would have difficulty getting used to this shape. I must say though that I have found that with the heels of my hands resting on the platform evidently placed there for that purpose, I can reach all of the keys on the three principal banks and, if my fingers were a trifle longer I could reach the number keys without really moving my hands. Another admirable feature is that although the User's Guide warns that the range of the rf beams sent out by the mouse and keyboard is only about six feet and that it is easily blocked by monitors, printers etc, I have not encountered any problems in that respect. I am sure that anyone could use this product with little difficulty.

The Microsoft web site (http://www.microsoft.com/products/info/product.aspx?view=22&pcid=deb7239d-c8ea-4b6e-a036-dadc1496aac7&type=ovr) lists the following system requirements:

Operating system – Windows 2000 Pro or Server or Windows XP, all with a Pentium CPU and a minimum of 128 MB of RAM.

Hard disk space – 60 MB of free space.

Also required are a CD-ROM drive and the aforementioned USB or PS/2 ports.

For Macintosh: "OS X version 10.1 or 10.2 (excluding 10.0)" and a USB port and CD-ROM drive.

Installation of this product was a breeze – just follow the on-screen directions. They included the usual screen urging registration of the product, which I ignored. This product's installation was well-mannered. It did not alter any aspect of my computer's configuration, possibly because I took the coward's course and accepted any defaults that it offered.

I installed this product on a Gateway desktop computer running Windows XP, home edition, with 128 MB of RAM and more than 30 GB of open hard disk space. I repeat that I encountered no installation problems and the units worked as advertised. To return to the subject of documentation, I found the 8-page "getting Started" manual adequate but just barely. The Readme.txt file apparently performed its assigned function of introducing the product and presenting material that had been changed or added subsequent to creation of the User's Manual CD. I printed out some forty pages of the User's Manual, which is quite clear and detailed but a little repetitious. I find that latter characteristic more a plus than a minus, as would any teacher or leader but I must admit that I did find it annoying.

I recommend this product, but my advice is to try it out before handing over a hundred or so dollars for it.

Editor' Note: This optical wireless combo received the PC Magazine, Editor's Choice Award, February 3, 2004. The Microsoft web site summarizes the hardware's features as follows:

Wireless Optical Desktop Pro 2.0 lets you work your own way in comfort and style. You get wireless technology, ergonomic design, one-touch features, programmable keys, and Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse® Explorer with Tilt Wheel Technology.

· Tilt Wheel Technology

New wheel functionality and intuitive software give you enhanced, accelerated scrolling through documents and Web pages.

· Includes Wireless Optical Mouse and Keyboard

Enjoy desktop harmony—this set includes a wireless optical mouse that accents the updated design of the keyboard.

· Smart receiver

Go wireless with confidence—smart technology sends a message when interference or low battery life is detected, reducing the likelihood of interruption.

· Longer battery life

Finally, a solution to the wireless hassle—now you can work longer without interruption. Many users experience a half year of battery life!

· Keyboard navigation with Tilt Wheel

Scroll in every direction with one hand on the mouse and the other on the keyboard, for effortless control and flexibility. ∎

ScanSoft's PDF Converter for Microsoft Word

By Charles J. Fete, NOCCC

This was definitely a fun review. Scansoft has employed the first principle of software with PDF Converter: i.e., KISS – *Keep It Safe & Simple*. It comes in an 8 by 10 box with a single 7 by 9 card written on both sides and a CD with all the registration materials attached to the envelope. Installation couldn't be easier. I put the CD in the drive and closed the door and within seconds the install program was running … the fastest I have ever experienced. First it asks your language (I chose English out of a list of 16) and then it went to a four item menu page:

Install ScanSoft PDF Converter
ScanSoft PDF Converter Readme
Browse CD
Visit ScanSoft's Web site With a < and an EXIT button.

Browse showed me a map of the CD in terms of the file types with icons attached. The readme file is enclosed. I didn't visit ScanSoft's website. But the Install was very simple. It asked all the pertinent questions, like where I would like to put the files but remarkably it did not ask what name I wanted to list it under. The reason for that became apparent in time. No reboot, No other nonsense. It took about 5 minutes. But what I didn't realize at the time was that it had changed my entire environment!

I had the Teacher/Student edition of Microsoft Office already installed, and at first look, it seemed to operate the same as before. But there was a difference. Also changed were Windows Explorer, Internet Explorer, and Microsoft Outlook. But the most remarkable thing about the installation was that there was no direct evidence that it had ever taken place! No icon in the tray, or on the program menu. There was a hidden folder in the program files folder but you would have to know that ahead of time.

So I went to the sheet that was included in the box. There, at the top of page 2 were the four cases:

Direct Conversion: You can convert PDF files directly, even if Microsoft Word is not running. In these cases, a new Word document is displayed, ready to be saved. Convert as follows:

· **Windows Explorer**: Right click on a PDF icon or file name. Choose **Open PDF in Word** from the shortcut menu.

· **Internet Explorer:** Right click on a hyperlink leading to a PDF file. Choose **Open in Word** from the shortcut menu.

· **Microsoft Outlook:** Click the PDF converter button in the toolbar. It is active whenever a message with a PDF attachment is selected. If a message has more than one PDF, a dialog box lets you select which to convert.
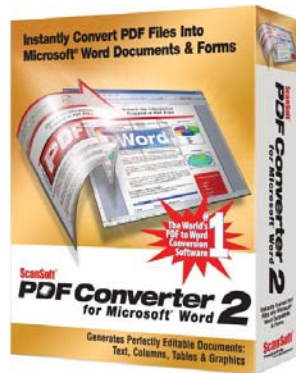
The document goes on to discuss what to do with pages of text scanned by OmniPage Pro 11, if you have it. Apparently, it can scan documents as if they were PDFs and then this product will convert the scanned graphics to Word format.

I didn't have OmniPage Pro 11 so I could not try out that part of the tool. But I had plenty of PDF files. I started by using XP search for ".pdf" files. The first one on my list was a 4 page newsletter I receive from the EDD every month. The file was 79K in size. So, in the window that contained the search names, I right clicked on the first name and the menu jumped up, but not the regular right click menu I had come to know and cower from:

It looked like:
Open Containing folder
Open with Acrobat 6.0
Print
Open PDF in Word
Open with à
Scan with Norton Antivirus
Send to à
Cut
Copy
Create shortcut
Delete
Rename
Properties

I had never seen "Open PDF in Word" before. So I moved the mouse to it and left clicked. Since Word was already open, the little green light (that indicates disk activity) began to blink … A LOT … **FOR A LONG TIME!** It took nearly 7 minutes to convert four pages of mixed text and photos of PDF file to Word format. But the results were pretty impressive. Now, the editor of that Newsletter (who uses a MAC, by the way) wouldn't be very pleased with the typesetting or layout, which was a little rough. Actually, page three expanded into page 3A because of the page settings I had set and the nature of the text. But there was the entire newsletter, done with columns, tables, different fonts and colors and with the photos intact!!

I decided to try it again. Half way down my list of PDF files was: "usrguide.pdf" in the ScanSoft\PaperPort folder. If ever there were a PDF file that ought to be good as an example for a ScanSoft product, this was it. I decided to time it this time. With Word already open it was 75 seconds to open a 44 page PDF file of 5,016 Kbytes size. Then it took another 20 second for the ScanSoft logo to come up and another 55 seconds to come up with the error message: "ScanSoft PDF converter cannot convert this PDF file because the first page has no text layer. You should process this file with OmniPage Pro. If you do not have OmniPage Pro on your system, you are directed to the ScanSoft web site http://www.scansoft.com ."

Hmmm, was this a problem with the product, or did I not

Online Investing Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools

By Bob De Wolf, NOCCC

"Online Investing Hacks" is an interesting book about investing with a peculiar title and an unusual organization from O'Reilly, a publisher of computer science books. The sections within each chapter are items the author identifies as "hacks". A hack is described as a quick-and-dirty" solution to a problem or a clever way to complete a task.
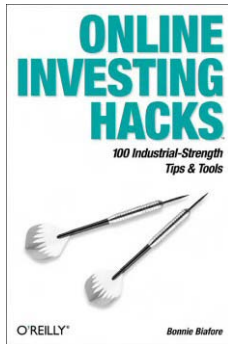
Hack #99 is titled "Hire a Financial Planner". I think of the classic hack as something like a bit of Basic code that employs the "poke" command to store octal numbers at absolute memory addresses. It's hard for me to think of hiring a financial planner as a hack. I suppose it could be a tip, but the tips are identified with a thumbtack symbol and this one isn't.

Complaining aside, the book has a lot to recommend it. The first group of hacks rely on the use of the "web query" feature in most modern spreadsheets (Excel, Lotus 123, Quatro Pro, for example) to extract data from a table of numbers in a web page and put them into the cells of a spreadsheet. From that point the user can refer to the data from (usually) another page in the sheet and manipulate the data. The data might come from a company web site, government site, stock broker site, etc. You might think that the site would have to authorize this. Not so, since web query parses the html supplied by the site and instead of displaying it in your brower it parses it and puts it into the rows and columns of your spreadsheet. Some of the examples show how you could have flagged Enron and Worldcom as problem stocks using data from the web.

The one fault I have with the "web query" coverage is that the book only identifies Excel as having this feature when it is generally available from most modern spreadsheet programs including the ones mentioned earlier.

Other hacks provide help with most topics the average investor is likely to need such as mutual fund investing, portfolio management, and financial planning. The resources that are provided, such as "The Best Mutual Fund Screens for a Fee" consist of a some that are favored by the author rather than a comprehensive list. A couple of my favorites weren't listed here.

My favorite recommendation is from hack #65, "Evaluate Mutual Funds", which says "Past performance is no guarantee of future results, but if all other important variables are equal, funds are likely to continue producing similar results."

On balance this is a useful book to add to your collection or use to update your tools with the latest techniques.

This book is available from www.orielly.com for $24.95. ∎

TiVo Hacks 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools

By Leonard Prince NOCCC

This O'Reilly book presents uniquely the internal workings of the series

1 of the TiVo personal video recorders. The book notes most of the hacks are for series 1 TiVos only. All you can buy today are series 2 TiVos. The series 1 units were open code and easy to hack. They added a lot of secret code to series 2 units making them less hacker-friendly. The author, Raffi Krikorian, presents the workings by means of 100 "hacks". These hacks describe modifications via the remote control, software changes, and hardware changes.

Not all hacks described require opening your box, but many do. With a little basic

knowledge, your remote control, a screwdriver, and the instructions in the book, you can change the way your TiVo works. Some of the TiVo Hacks could make you dangerous to the continued health of your TiVo. So back up before attempting any of the major changes. That prevents the $400 TiVo from becoming a poor boat anchor. However, a large number of the hacks are just reprogramming the unit using your remote control to punch in a series keystrokes. The earlier model TiVo's were simply a general purpose computer with 30 Gigabyte hard drives using off the shelf hardware.

This catalog of hacks encourages a general understanding of the hardware operation. Detailed operating system code is not covered. Used by a serious hacker, the book offers an excellent cook book approach to modifying your TiVo. I will not list the 100 hacks, but the outstanding task categories were:

Installing a larger hard drive. (9)

Remote Control Shortcuts, discovering codes and program tricks. (19).

Manipulating the shell. (18)

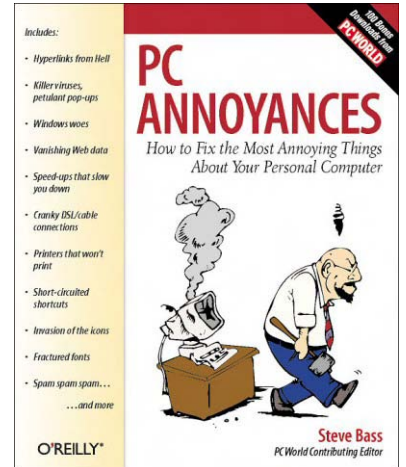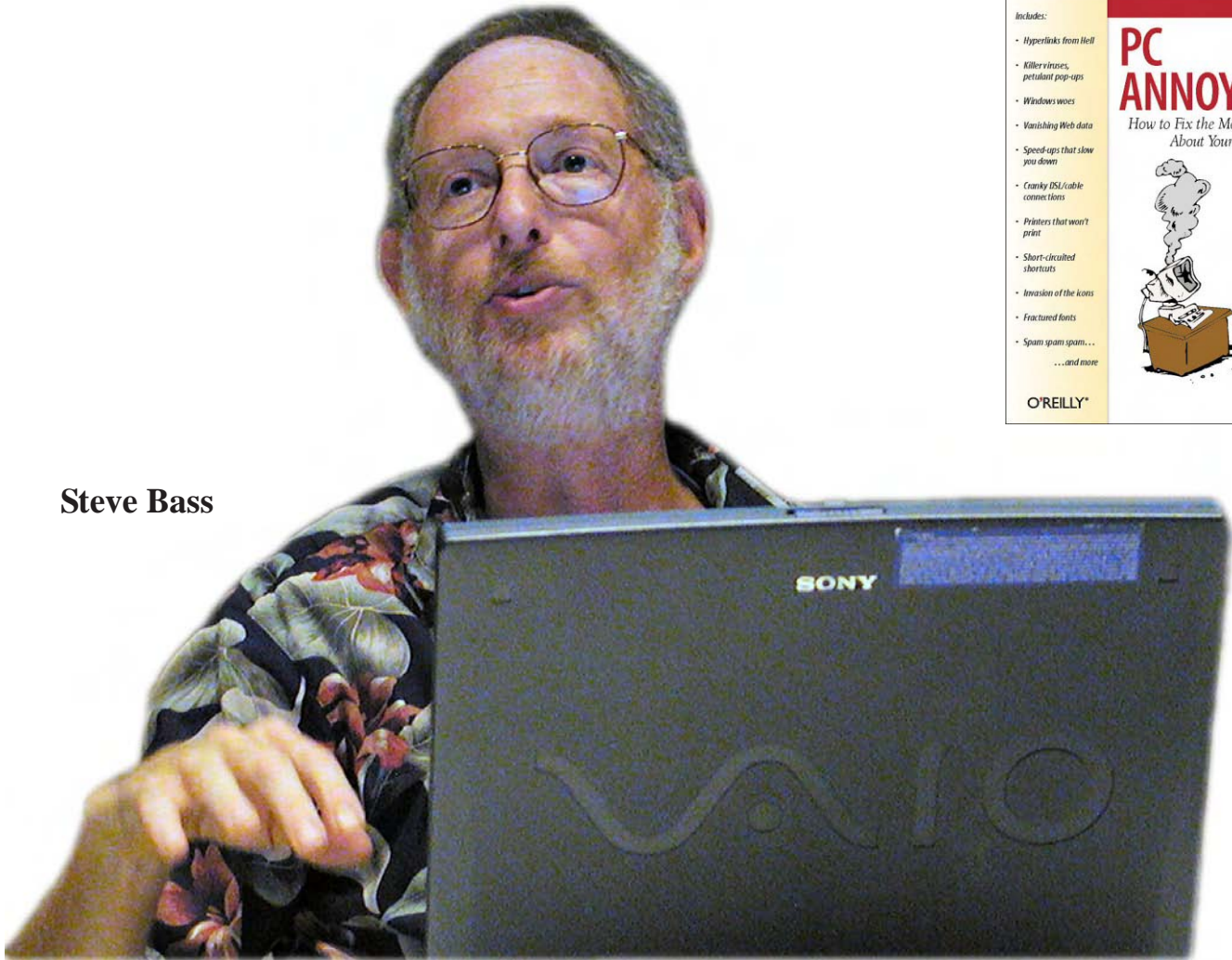Connecting to the internet. (34)

Working with videos. (7)

Writing code. (13)

References to other TiVo lovers and their sites will help you update later model TiVo's.

O'Reilly's list price: $24.95. Order from: http://www.oreilly.com and don't forget NOCCC's club discount. ∎

September Photos

Steve Bass

For a good review of Steve's presentation, see the SIG report by Eric Saca on page 20.

Gathering for the Main meeting
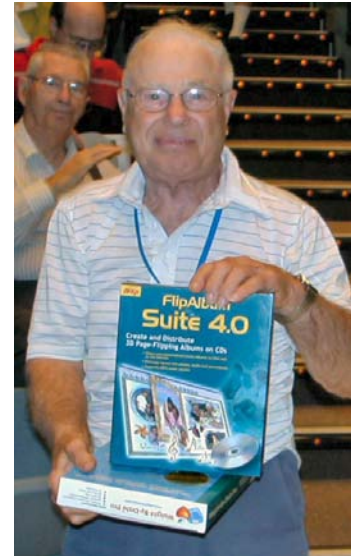
Steve signed the copies of his book

Turns out, that after months of seeing this view of the new building on the Chapman University campus being constructed, that what we were looking at was the back of the new library.
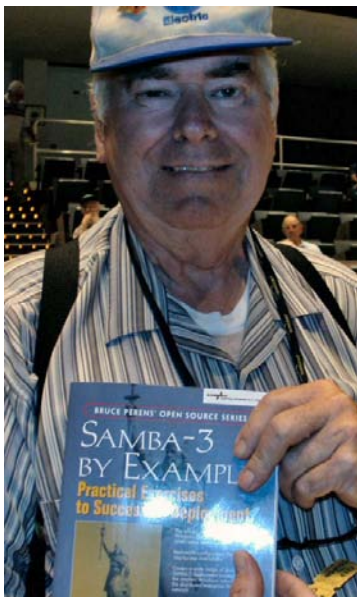
The new Leatherby Libraries building actually has a front.

The winners

Chuck Hower won twice!

The Prizes

FrontPage

just that problem. After all, "front page" is a lot like "home page" and I thought "oh, here we go again, another tool that wants me to start from the beginning!" But the title is more a tribute to the newspaper industry. After all, what is a Web site? Really? I think of it as an electronic newspaper, or newsletter that is expandable, updateable, current, timely and "ya don't have to kill trees" to be published!

Something to read:

There's a great opening line in a favorite book I own: "If you've never used FrontPage before, you may not know where to start." It goes on to encourage the new user to not be overwhelmed by the "program's interface and assortment of buttons and menus." So if you are the sort of person who is inclined to be intimidated by such things, I'd like to recommend the companion book, Microsoft FrontPage 2002 fast & easy by Patrice-Anne Rutledge from Prima Tech publishing. Now, I realize that $19 is a lot to spend after having shelled out big bucks for the software, but I think *Chapter One – Introducing FrontPage* is worth it. Too bad we can't just subscribe to a downloading service to buy the first section (chapter's 1 & 2) for $4.99. They give an overview and the naming taxonomy for all the things of which you are familiar on a web page (you've seen those hundreds of times before) but you never knew what their name was. It's just like any other pseudo science: once you master all the buzz words and abbreviations, the rest is EASY!

Now this article is NOT a review of the aforementioned book. But it IS a recommendation to people who tend to get intimidated by Microsoft's "policy of overkill". There's nothing more natural than finding a compatible piece of "hard copy" to read. So please accept it as such. EVERYTHING IN THAT BOOK CAN BE OBTAINED IN THE HELP TOOL OF FrontPage! And I even enjoyed the on-line tutorial that is presented there-in. But having that smooth page with a well annotated index attached, gives you that confident feeling that "I can do this thing"! Enough said.

Two analogies - part deux:

Getting back to our two analogies of Paint Art and Home Construction: how do these relate to FrontPage? Well, FrontPage is a tool that can simultaneously be used to: (a) build a one page flyer announcing a special day at your club a week from today, with links to other documents for the terminally curious, changing photos for the readers who don't really like too many words in their text, and interactive FAQs pages (Frequently Asked Questions) for the detail impaired in the audience, or to, (b) build an entire newspaper, from scratch, with multiple authors and real time publication deadlines and all the other "bells and whistles".

The latest edition of FrontPage is heavily integrated with Office XP (if you have it) but, can also stand alone (if you don't). That means you can publish an interactive resume. If you like, it can be completely integrated with spreadsheets and data base elements that can take requests for emails. It can accept questions (other than the ones on your FAQs page) package them up for delivery (via Outlook) to a human partner and return the answers to the parties who requested them, completely anonymously, if need be. Probably, your application fits somewhere between those

two extremes. But, frankly, I do not see any limitations in FrontPage that aren't also in HTML.

Compared to Geocities:

I think the closest thing I can think of to FrontPage is produced by Yahoo, in their Geocities system. They have a "free" downloadable tool called "PageBuilder" which is an extension that you must allow on your computer in order to use Geocities. Now, PageBuilder has two modes. There is a design mode, and a running mode. While you are in the design mode, you can move fields around, change linkages, edit photographs and other graphics, and the result is fit together on a "page" much like those home decorating tools of twenty years ago. You know, you had a scale model of the room you were decorating. Then you moved around little cardboard icons of sofas, coffee tables, chairs, etc. around in the scale model until you got something that "seemed" to fit. Then you laid a piece of tracing paper over the model and copied the design to give to your designer. It was simple but not too effective. What if the lamp you chose blocked the view of the mantel clock from your favorite easy chair? How would you know? Well, PageBuilder builds toy web sites in that fashion. Then when you switch PageBuilder over to the Run mode, other users can see your new website. In fact, you can go to a different browser, perhaps on your same computer, and view what you just had done, say, from Mozilla's point of view or AOL's browser. Unfortunately, at that same moment, anyone else using Geocities is also looking at your design in progress.

FrontPage takes it one step further. You can build a prototype of your website completely in your computer, exercise it, test it with other browsers and never have someone else "instant messaging" you "Hey dude! What are you doing to the website, it looks all funny!" Once you publish it, you can have "private" folders which contain web pages that are "in progress". YOU can see them, but others cannot. Not until you take the "private" restriction of the folder. Furthermore, FrontPage has BUILT IN many popular browsers so that you can view your (private) web page from other browsers' points of view WITHOUT anyone else seeing the result. Then when you get it right, make one switch and, (Tah Tah) instant genius!

Of course there are all the special effects capable in FrontPage: animation, sound effects, music, interactive motion, morphing, Frames, automatic hyperlink checking, and many more. The concept of Frames brings to mind something. When I was a student at Fullerton College, frames were just being introduced. Now for

those who don't know, Frames is a way of dividing up the screen in a web page to have different activities going on in the different sub-sections of the window. Appropriately, they are referred to as "panes" of the "windows" and when I started HTML, creating and modifying frames was VERY DIFFICULT. Now it is a snap! You can even dynamically size the different window panes (frames) INTERACTIVELY! THAT is a breakthrough not available in Geocities!

One last word about maintenance:

The hardest thing I know of in the technology of building websites is the constant maintenance required to keep it interesting, relevant and useful. Think of the last time you were following a series of links to find what you are looking for and you encountered a broken one. You think, "Can't the webmaster see this coming?" and "Where do I go from here?" Well, FrontPage has taken steps toward solving both of those problems. First, there is an extensive site mapping tool which gives your viewer a map to your website. It is interactive. Second, the "To Do list" of the Task menu can be integrated with the Automatic Link checker and the Spelling Checker so that when problems are found in the linkage or grammar/spelling, you (the developer) are so notified in the To Do list for the next time you log on to do some development. That, coupled with the integrated file management tool (similar to Windows Explorer) in which the process of moving pages around from folder to folder AUTOMATICALLY updates all the linkages on and to that page, makes FrontPage a Front Runner on my web site.

Top Questions of this Review:

1. Recommend Win 98SE or above, (min)128Mbytes memory, 75Mbytes disk

2. It was NOT difficult to install, but then I'm used to Microsoft Software. Not protected; allows placement anywhere; auto configuration; and you can control it (as much as you can control any other Microsoft product).

3. GQ A535 laptop, 640 Meg, 20 Gig, Win XP home, 15" standard TFT

4. A small book is supplied, and numerous sales promotions, a reg. card, and the CD which has a copy of the doc on it. The Help menu was spectacular. I could have used more examples, but I found them in a different media. (See text above)

5. Standard Microsoft tech support, 90 Days, 30 day return policy. Toll call to speak to a person. There is an extensive FAQs section and a bulletin board and a blog.

Product is standalone but is integrateable with Office. MSRP=$199 (Upgrade=$109), Street price is $120 on La Palma Avenue, Anaheim; less elsewhere. Version is 2003. See http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/FX010858021033.aspx.

I would recommend it for serious website (even one time) producers; overkill for the casual user.

6. Like most Microsoft software, it isn't scalable. Do you remember the old Word Star concept of scalable? Oh, well, the sun has set on those days. So you get a myriad of buttons and menus. Make the most of it. I like to push buttons!

7. As long as MS Office's look and feel is the way it is, then leave FrontPage's l&f alone. It would be valuable to have the notion of Visual Basic/C++ project. ∎

Phishing

A firewall blocks all communications from unauthorized sources and helps make you invisible on the Internet. A firewall is especially important if you have a high-speed Internet connection. Hackers love to take over broadband machines because then they can use them to spread spam even faster!

The best firewall I've come across is Agnitum's Outpost Pro. It's easy to use if you're a beginner and if you're more advanced, it gives you lots of different options. See http://www.agnitum.com/ for details.

Finally, make sure you keep up-to-date with Microsoft's patches. The latest research shows that an unpatched Windows XP computer has a life expectancy of less than 20 minutes before it is compromised. That's less time than it takes to download the patches!

So check out Microsoft's Update page to make sure you're up-to-date.

I hope you've found this newsletter helpful. Thank you to all of you who send us your comments and suggestions. We enjoy hearing from you - please keep in touch. And feel free to forward this newsletter on to your friends and family. If you have any questions about our products or the deals we offer, please contact us by email at info@firetrust.com.

Editor's Note: This article has been reproduced from the monthly newsletter of Firetrust, a great software company in New Zealand. http://www.firetrust.com. ∎

Presidents message

Digital Photo Day in October

We will be having a big Digital Photo Day on October 3. The Digital Guy, Lee Otsubo, (http://www.thedigitalphotoguy.com/) will be our Main speaker . Lee teaches Digital Photography at many of the San Diego resorts and has completed a number of Digital Photo training CD's. He will also carry over into the Digital Photo Sig at 2:30 for Questions and Answers.

Hands-On Digital Camera Session -Bring your digital camera and manual!

The 9:30 New Technologies will be a Hands-On Digital Camera Session. George Margolin will do an overview of features you might want to use on your camera, then we will break out into small tables, where we will have volunteers to help you learn how to use your camera. Bring your camera and the camera manual (as there are thousands of different cameras!) and our volunteers will offer one-on-one assistance with using your camera. Is there a feature you do not know how to use- macro, white balance, turn off flash, that you want to learn how to do? Tell all your friends about the Digital Photo day! ∎

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, OR BOOK!** Currently available are the following **products**:

Boxed Programs and CDs

My DVD Studio Deluxe v.6 – This new version from Sonic includes all the tools you need to edit video, create menus & buttons, put together a slide show, rip & burn CDs, and make exact copies of your CDs & DVDs. It requires at least a 1 GHz Pentium III and Windows XP. MSRP=$100.

FlipAlbum 5 Suite – An excellent photo-album-maker from E-Book Systems allows you to create & share virtual photo albums on your PC, on CDs, or on the Web. MSRP=$50.

Phone Works Pro 2002 – The "ultimate" Windows Personal Assistant software for telephone, voice mail, fax, & e-mail. Integrates with Outlook & Outlook Express. From Ring Central. MSRP=$120.

Internet Cleanup 3.0 – From Aladdin Systems, this program blocks pop-ups and ads, erases data trails, deletes web bugs, etc. In other words, it protects your privacy and removes the annoying stuff when surfing the Web. MSRP=$30.

V2i Protector 2.0 – From PowerQuest/Symantec, this program provides desktop backup & disaster recovery by capturing and protecting real-time working states of systems & data partitions. MSRP=$39.

Backup for Workgroups 1.0 – A new backup & disaster-recovery program from Lockstep Systems for small & midsize businesses using a disk-based backup program with Windows for 3 clients. MSRP=$299/3 Clients.

Easy Uninstall 2.0 – Aladdin System's easiest & most complete program uninstaller for Windows operating systems. Works with Windows 95/98/ME/NT. MSRP=$25.

Spring Cleaning – One-click cleanup of old unwanted or unnecessary files; uninstall/backup/restore/archive/transport programs; and fix registry errors. This is the sequel to Aladdin Systems' Easy Uninstall and works with Windows XP and older operating systems. MSRP=$30.

Stuffit Deluxe 8.5 – The only complete compression solution with wizards for archiving, compressing, emailing, opening archives, etc. You can schedule backups, automate everyday tasks, search & browse, and more. MSRP=$40.

Aha-Soft's Icon Programs – This CD contains a quartet of programs for creating, modifying, manipulating, viewing, and organizing icons. It provides amateur and pro graphic artists with cutting-edge image-processing software. The programs are ArtIcons Pro ($40), IconLover ($50), AhaView ($20), and IconXP ($20).

NotePager Pro 3 – Sends SMS and text messages to mobile phones, pagers, and handhelds. For Windows operating systems. Messages can be sent through a modem or the Internet. MSRP=$30.

NeuDesk Productivity Suite – A search engine for your hard drives, this program maps & characterizes every file so you can find it simply and easily by typing a few words into a single simple interface. From NeuTrino Technologies.

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 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, its vendor, and its cost (list, vendor discounts, & street) so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. Be objective, but balanced in your review in so far as plaudits and criticisms are concerned. Remember, you are reviewing for your colleagues and not for the vendor.

After you have tested the product or read the book, consider these questions:

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

II. Does it stand out compared to similar products?

III. What are its major features?

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

V. Is it worth the money? Do you recommend it?

VI. 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:

I. Requirements:

a. Operating systems?

b. Processor/speed?

c. Memory, Disk space, Video & Audio?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

a. Was it difficult?

b. Copy or write protected?

c. Does it allow drive and directory selection?

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

III. Information about your system:

a. Hardware?

b. Operating system? Version?

c. Memory?, Video display?

IV. Documentation:

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

b. Was it clear, concise and helpful?

c. Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:

a. How is the vendor's tech support?

b. Does it cost anything?

c. Is it a toll call?

d. Does the vendor provide free Internet support?

VI. About the product:

a. What comes with the product?

b. What is the cost (list & street)? Any special deals for user group members?

c. Version number and release date?

d. How difficult is the learning curve?

e. Would you buy/use the product?

f. Do you recommend it?

g. What don't you like about it?

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

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

j. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

The following list of questions applies to books:

a. What is the subject matter?

b. Does the book meet its stated purpose?

c. Is it timely? If it is a revised edition, what is new in the current edition?

d. Is the title an accurate reflection of the content?

e. What level of reader capability is required? Who will find it useful?

f. Is it easy to read and technically accurate?

g. Is it well illustrated and are the illustrations easy to view?

h. Are there any major omissions and why are they important?

i. How are the key points highlighted?

j. Does the book have to be read in chronological order?

k. Are there any accompanying extras (like CDs)?

l. What do you like and dislike about the book?

m. Is the author well known in this field? Does he/she have a web site for errata/updates?

n. Finally, do you recommend it?

After you have answered 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, **but length should be secondary to content sufficiency**. However, we request you limit general articles and software reviews to 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 with a 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: reviews@noccc.org.

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 (if lengthy) 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! 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 NOCCC Web site

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca

In September we were entertained and educated by Steve Bass, the informative, helpful and humorous author of a new book, "PC Annoyances." He is also a long time columnist for PC World magazine. More later, on this.

President Cathy Margolin ran the meeting and started with a triumphant announcement that we won the GRAND PRIZE in the SouthWest User Groups (SWUG) annual newsletter contest! Our Orange Bytes got the recognition it deserved — and so did our Editor, Jim Sanders, for editing and managing our fine newsletter!

As Jim was recognized for his great work, he mentioned that the newsletter isn't produced in a vacuum — it requires everyone's contributions. This is particularly important now, as our vendors are so appreciative of our reviews that they've bestowed MANY more items on us. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to review them! And if you do a meaningful review – you can get to KEEP the items.

Gerry Resch mentioned that **everyone wearing his or her badge gets a FREE raffle ticket.** Take advantage of it!

Cathy introduced Steve Bass. Steve is a longtime contributing editor to PC World and author of the magazine's "Home Office" column and numerous how-to features. He runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group and is a FOUNDING member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG — from which our Orange Bytes won its prize last year).

Steve started us off laughing with a hilarious PC annoyance slide show —

each slide containing a funny picture that had to be seen to be believed. Then for the rest of his hour, Steve threw one helpful tip after another at us. Most of these were new — and not in his book. They included the following:

* SpoofStick (www.corestreet.com/spoofstick) — This utility tells you the REAL website to which you are connected, so you won't get fooled by the many imitation scam sites out there.

* Annoying drive settings — Steve recommended against using the Compress Drive and Indexing Service features in the Properties boxes of Windows 2000 and XP drives. It is dangerous and inefficient to compress a whole drive — it can really slow your system. Compress individual files instead. There are many drive indexing services available for download that are far superior to the Windows version.

* Get rid of old Restore Points — If you're looking to clean up files in Windows XP and regain some disk space, check your Restore Points. Each one takes up a great deal of space. By deleting several of them, you may recover gigabytes of space! **WARNING:** Create a new Restore Point BEFORE deleting any old Restore Points.

* Customize AutoPlay — In Windows XP, you can configure the AutoPlay setting on your CD drive by right-clicking that drive in Windows Explorer and clicking Properties. There is a new AutoPlay tab. Click it to disable AutoPlay or make it work exactly the way YOU want it.

* TrayPlay (http://www.chime.tv/multimedia.shtml) — This free audio player is a simpler alternative to Windows media player. It makes playing your CDs easier. It also displays itself as a frisbee in your System Tray, so it doesn't occupy valuable Taskbar space.

* Maxthon (www.maxthon.com) — A feature-filled Web browser alternative to IE. It's like IE with all the powerful add-ons people tend to install.

* SetBrowser 1.4 (www.pc-tools.net/win32/setbrowser) — Microsoft may have made IE the default browser, but you can reset it to any browser you like

(e.g., Netscape or Opera) with this free utility.

* WinPatrol (www.winpatrol.com) — This free utility provides helpful details about EVERY program in your System Tray.

* Going back during a PowerPoint slideshow — Out of necessity, Steve needed to go back a slide in his presentation. He didn't know how to do it, but some helpful NOCCC members pointed out that it's done with the Left-Arrow and Backspace keys. Which just goes to show you that sometimes even Gurus need Gurus.

* FinePrint (www.pdffactory.com) — A $40 utility that helps you control print spooling and makes it easy to remove annoying extra blank pages at the end of printouts. With it, you can print fancy ways, such as 4 pages in 1, the folio view, with watermarks and other ways. It's also loaded with many other features.

* SpywareBlaster (www.javacoolsoftware.com/spywareblaster.html) — If your Internet Explorer homepage has been 'hijacked' and keeps changing to something you don't want, SpywareBlaster is a handy free utility that will blast away that behavior.

* Spyware removal — To keep your system free of spyware, you should run both Spybot and Adaware once a week. You can get them both from www.download.com.

* ClearType — The XP ClearType feature is good for laptops and LCD screens. If you don't have either of these, turn it off. by right-clicking your desktop, click Properties, click the Appearance tab, click the Effects button and it's the second option in that dialog box.

* Get rid of transition effects — Also on the Effects screen, the first option is Transition Effects. These can slow your system tremendously — just uncheck the option and disable transition effects altogether.

* ClearTweek (www.ioisland.com/cleartweak) -- If you do use ClearType, when you perform a PrintScreen, your output will look strange. To fix this, download and use the free ClearTweek

utility.

* FolderShare (www.foldershare.com) — A way of sharing even large files with colleagues. It's superior to e-mail and FTP. The free version lets you share up to 3 files. To share an entire library, it's just $4.50 a month. You set up shared folders on your PC and your colleagues can access files from them over the Internet. It includes VPN-equivalent security.

* ChimeNote (www.chimenote.com) — A free utility providing electronic Post-It type notes that you can send to yourself throughout the day to remember things.

* Dumping MSN Messenger — Notice how you cannot remove MSN Messenger from Windows XP? Now you can, with the free MyUninstaller from www.nirsoft.net, under Utilities.

* Powerstrip liberator (www.cyberguys.com) — This simple $2 item allows you to plug in 2 devices into one electrical outlet. BTW, the homepage on that site displays a fancy $15 model — ignore it and find the $2 model, which works perfectly.

* ControlKey (www.controlkey.com) — This is a $60 security tool. It's a USB dongle that must be connected to your computer — otherwise it won't work. You can carry the dongle with you to prevent anyone else from using your computer, changing settings on it — and to establish parental control over Internet usage.

* USB extension cable — This Belkin product allows you to connect USB devices from a greater distance (www.belkin.com).

* Flexible recharging options — With ZipLink, you can power/recharge your cell phone from your USB port! The device also has a retractable cable for easy storage. A similar device allows you to charge your Palm PDA without a cradle. There's also a clever little gadget for only $3 that uses a 9-volt battery to recharge your cell phone. Search for ZipLink in Google.

* Groove (www.groove.net/home) — This fine piece of software for only $70 is the BEST collaboration tool Steve has

ever seen. It even allows a group of users with PC microphones to talk to each other during the process.

Steve's book, "PC Annoyances" is filled with many more handy tips and tricks like those he presented at the meeting. He was selling it for a flat NOCCC price of $17. This included a free T-shirt!

On closing, Cathy gave us her monthly virus-protection warning to keep our software and pattern files up-to-date and data Backed UP!. She had noticed when installing ZoneAlarm that it DISABLES the Norton LiveUpdate function. Make sure to re-enable that after installing ZoneAlarm! Also, Cathy mentioned that many people had problems after installing Windows XP SP2. Test your system THOROUGHLY after installing it!

At our raffle, a 5-port Ethernet switch was given away (as well as several other prizes). FlipAlbum Suite software was the prize for a lucky member who wore his badge!

Next Meeting – A very special presentation by "The Digital Photo Guy," Lee Otsubo. He will be the main act of a day of Digital Photography workshops and SIGs. Lee is a marvelously enthusiastic and entertaining presenter with lots of information and props. If you have ANY interest in the new world of digital photography – this program is **NOT TO BE MISSED!** If fact – the whole day is not to be missed. So don't miss it!. ∎

MAC SIG

By C. Lemire, MA

It has been a few months since the last report shortly after which John took ill. I will take up the leadership in his stead though I am not the writer he is. Bob continues to aide as he can and the support of the regular attendees is much appreciated.

Well she did it! Carla ordered the new G5 iMac. It is a thickened flat screen on a pedestal & not much else. Using Bluetooth, Carla plans to eliminate almost all the cabling making her desk look truly ultra-modern. Maybe she can bring it by

the meeting for a demo...? No pressure. ;-)

Speaking of changes, Earthlink is in the process of updating to an authenticated server. The following is the method for accessing that server, vastly reducing spam

> Open up Outlook Express

> Under the "Tools" menu, select "Accounts"

> Click on Earthlink (in case you have more than one)

...snip...

> In the next dialog box, check "SMTP server requires authentication"

> Make sure your e-mail address and your password are in boxes below.

* If you do not have Outlook Express, then the most important thing to look for is the SMTP server for sending mail (under account settings or preferences or something like that) and change it to the address listed above; and some kind of check box that tells the program that the SMTP server is looking for authentication before sending mail.

Please come to our next meeting at 1115 am room 221, Wilkinson Hall, Chapman University. Our best wishes go to John and his family. The new contact information is - Claire Lemire, 714-292-9772, clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com. ∎

Computer Aided Investors (CAI) SIG

By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Market Review Looking at the chart of the Dow from the first of the year, it is clear that we're in a down-trending channel with a series of ups and downs that swing over 550 points in the channel. As September begins we are at the high p ointofthechannel.Market optimists think we can break out and rally, driven by the election and good news from the

CAI SIG

economy and corporate performance. A chart of W. Bressert's 20 wk cycle pattern shows this optimism with the market rising in October as we approach the election. He contrasts this pattern with the pattern in place for President Bush's father's re-election that experienced a weak economy and market drop into a 20 wk cycle bottom just before that election. (See www.walterbressert.com for complete report "Daja Vu Update??") The 9 month cycle also reinforces this view since it bottomed in mid-August and is rising and will continue upward into December. These are the main two cycles that drive intermediate market performance. Looking at the other common market indicators, there is little reason to be optimistic for the next month or so. We reviewed technical risk in market such as markets below the 200 day average, historical data that indicated September is usually a down month, and analysis of seasonal performance which doesn't improve until after October.

While the markets bounce back and forth in a channel, there are trading opportunities to make money. We reviewed a system that traded the DIA ETF using the bounce off the channel bottom, and it returned 13.8% in 3 trades over 6 months.

New Topics The market timing system at FundAdvice.com was evaluated for potential use. This web site reflects the expertise of P. Merriman – a well-known market timer, and contains a lot of informative articles on investing. The website described a scheme using 4 market timing signals that were constructed to match performance of a buy & hold position, but be of value by reducing drawdown. Four crossover signals are used involving the 150 day moving average, short term interest rates, the NASDAQ up/down volume, and the NY Advance Decline line. The results met the objectives reducing the drawdown and increasing risk-adjusted returns. I concluded that these signals are helpful to avoid market losses, but are not sufficient to use as an investing strategy to make money over the long haul.

Options Presentation This month, Ted Williams discussed a few Option Strategies. He selected them from the techniques recommended by Optionetics in their educational material. Four strategies were covered long straddle, long strangle, bull call spread and bear put spread. Each of these involved taking two positions – a put or call at different prices to setup a model that would net profits, and limit losses for different situations. Each strategy had a specific purpose and application – for an up market or down market, and you were the judge of which way the market would move, and applied these strategies accordingly. Each strategy has its strong and weak points, and using them effectively and determining when to apply them takes some practice and learning. We will continue with more on Options with Ted covering the educational material, questions and discussions with the members, and how to use computer tools in Options investing. Ted 's paper on Options will be made available on his website www.tlwilliams.net.

Next month we will take a look at AmiBroker (Amibroker.com) as an alternative to MetaStock, TC2000, and FastTrack for charting, technical analysis and trading stocks and mutual funds.■

Products

MSRP=$60.

SendPhotos Gold – "If you would like to e-mail photos without hassle, SendPhotos, from Novatix, is easy and fun to use." - PC Magazine, April 22, 2003. MSRP=$20.

Money 2004 Deluxe – Microsoft's latest version of this excellent software for managing your finances and planning for the future. Received PC Magazine's "Editor's Choice" award. MSRP=$60 less a $20 mail-in rebate.

Flight Simulator 2004: A Century of Flight – Microsoft's latest simulation game with 24 historic & modern aircraft. MSRP=$30.

Calendar Creator 10 Deluxe – Broderbund's popular software for creating custom calendars with over 150,000 premium images. MSRP=$50.

Programs to Download from Vendor's Web Site

RedBox Organizer 5.0 – Award-winning Personal Information Manager for Windows from Inkline Global with a comprehensive set of simple-to-use utilities. MSRP=$40.

Currently Available are the Following Books

Inside AutoCAD 2005 – This book/CD takes a hands-on, in-depth approach to everything from the most common tasks and functions to advanced concepts with step-by-step tutorials showing you how to effectively use and apply AutoCAD 2005 to meet your needs. From New Riders. MSRP=$45.

Google: The Missing Manual – This book, by Sarah Milstein & Rael Dornfest from O'Reilly, is your guide to search techniques & tricks, must-have tools, little-known corners of Google, and webmastering. MSRP=$20..

Hardware Hacking Projects for Geeks – This O'Reilly book is authored by Scott Fullam who has been "hacking" hardware since he was ten years old. It contains 15 amazing projects that range from the truly useful to the legendary and wacky. MSRP=$30.

Upgrading Your PC, 2nd Ed. – New Riders book + DVD authored by Mark Soper. A good reference if you are planning to enhance your PC. MSRP=$25.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Ed. – This book authored by Todd Stauffer from Que Publishing teaches you how to design & build your own Web sites by showing you the fundamentals first and then building on that foundation with a hands-on tutorial approach. MSRP=$19.

Digital Photography Hacks – This book by Derrick Story from O'Reilly offers "100 industrial-strength tips & tools for getting the shot." MSRP=$30.

3D Game-Based Filmmaking: The Art of Machinima – The complete hands-on guide to creating animated real-time 3D films on your PC. Authored by Paul Marino, an award-winning Machinima and animated film director and designer,

know how to use the tool yet? I decided to try Internet Explorer. Google almost *always* is a source of PDF files.

I opened a new IE window and waited for Google to come up. I use Google's web page as my home page to start from when Internet Explorer first opens. I typed in "pdf" into the search field and got the following results, among others [this was the 7th reference]

PDF] The Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998

File Format: PDF/Adobe AcrobatPage 1. Pub. L. No. 105-304, 112 Stat. 2860 (Oct. 28, 1998). 1 Copyright Office Summary December 1998 Page 1 T HE D IGITAL M ILLENNIUM **...** www.copyright.gov/ legislation/dmca.**pdf** - Similar pages

I put the mouse pointer on the word Millennium, right clicked and I got:

> Open
> Open in New Window
> Save Target As …
> Print Target
> Copy
> Copy Shortcut
> Add to Favorites …
> AdSubtract: Bypass Site
> AdSubtract: Report Site
> Open PDF in Word
> Properties

I chose "Open PDF in Word" and nothing happened for a full minute. Then Word (which was already open) popped up a new window and 45 seconds later, up popped the ScanSoft logo with a little meter which registered 0 to 100 percent done. It took over eight minutes for that meter to register 100 percent, all the while giving me a running status on the conversion. At the end of the eighth minute a message appeared that said "Some of the PDF file could not be converted" and OmniPage Pro should be used on these sections. Then there was a message that ScanSoft Converter had completed the conversion task. It had an OK button. I clicked the button and up popped 18 pages of almost perfectly formatted text complete with graphic logos, headers and footers, color fonts and other things one usually sees in a PDF file, not in a Word file. It was all editable and movable. It was great!

But it took well over 9 minutes from start to finish converting only 18 pages. If you look at it logically though, that's a whole lot of conversion goin' on there, especially to happen completely automatically. My laptop is only 800 MHz and I only have 96 Megabytes of effective memory. So I assume that if I had a larger faster computer, then the conversion would have progressed faster. But I was still pleased with the results. I went back and reopened that original PDF file with Acrobat reader. I wanted to find out what had not been converted out of the original file. I printed out the 18 pages and compared them to the 18 converted pages I obtained through the converter. The differences were small but for exceedingly hard-to-build tables and graphic pictorials, charts and graphs. The essential text was there. Only the "pictures" were left for OmniPage Pro.

I really think that ScanSoft's PDF Converter for Microsoft Word is a valuable tool, not only to Word users, but to anyone who is researching on the Internet or with any electronic tools like CD encyclopedias and reference books. Portable Document Format (PDF) has become the standard tool for research documentation and since Word is the standard tool for writing papers, this is the perfect match up between tools. I would have liked to evaluate the OmniPage Pro tool as well, and I will look for it and report back ASAP. But I would definitely recommend ScanSoft's PDF Converter right now!

(**Editor's note**: OmniPage Pro 14 was reviewed by Elise Edgell in the August 2004 Orange Bytes. The latest version of PDF Converter is 2 with MSRP=$50. There also is a Pro 2 version with MSRP=$100. Additional details are at the vendor's web site http:// www.scansoft.com. Discounts are available at the usual online and retail stores; amazon.com has Converter 2 for $45.)

System Requirements

The following are the minimum system requirements to install and run the ScanSoft PDF Converter for Microsoft® Word:

· A computer with an Intel® Pentium® or higher processor

· Microsoft Windows 98 (from second edition), Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 6 or above, or Windows XP

· Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.1 or above

· Microsoft Word 97, Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Word XP or Microsoft Word 2003

· 64MB of memory (RAM), 128MB recommended

· 20MB of free hard disk space for application files plus 5MB working space during installation

· 5MB for Microsoft Installer (MSI) if not present. (This is present as part of the operating system in Windows Me, Windows 2000, and Windows XP)

· SVGA monitor with 256 colors, but preferably 16-bit color (called High Color in Windows 2000 and Medium Color in XP) and 800 x 600 pixel resolution

· Windows-compatible pointing device

· CD-ROM drive for installation. ∎

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	jfdonan@sbcglobal.net	714-633-4084
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	111	9:00	Herbert Wong	CESIG@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrat	Wilkinson	111	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	Claire Lemire	clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com	714-292-9772
New Technology	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Wilkinson	210	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	714-998-7660
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	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to				Herbert Wong, Jr.	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264

Benefits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

There's also an optional Support & Maintenance contract that gives tech support via phone & email, as well as free upgrades for one year. That contract is $28 (down from $35) for each license. If any multiple licenses are needed there will be additional discounts available as well. Please order your software from Beth Sautter. She can be contacted at: Beth Sautter bsautter@globalscape.com ~ Business Development Manager, GlobalSCAPE, 800.290.5054 x114

VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (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 $30 user group discount or $10 off the $40 price.

Klassic Specialties – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, www.klassicspecialties.com . Just put in the code NOCCC for the discount. Also 5% will be donated to the Club from your purchase.

Novatix Corporation

ExplorerPlusT – The ultimate file management program. ExplorerPlus™ provides a complete solution to all your file management needs. Tackle even the most demanding file management tasks like a pro! See UG pricing at: http://www.novatix.com/purchase?P4774C ∎
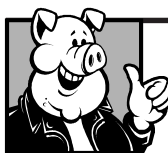
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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!

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 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 numbers are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members.

New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!
If you have an area of expertise to share, let us know.

Products

this book/CD is published by Paraglyph Press. MSRP=$40.

Implementing CIFS, the Common Internet File System – An authoritative guide to the inner workings of Microsoft's Internet/intranet file sharing system from Prentice Hall authored by Christopher Hertel. MSRP=$45.

C++ GUI Programming with Qt 3 – The first official Troll tech guide to Qt programming by Jasmine Blanchette & Mark Summerfield from Prentice Hall. MSRP=$45.

The Art of UNIX Programming – Authored by Eric Raymond from Addison-Wesley, this book bring together philosophy, design patterns, tools, culture, and traditions for this best & most innovative software. MSRP=$40.

Advanced UNIX Programming, 2nd Ed. – The classic guide to UNIX programming is authored by Marc Rochkind & published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$45.

Linux Programming by Example – This book teaches Linux programming by showing & explaining well-written programs drawing from both V7 UNIX and GNU source codes. Authored by Arnold Robbins (who wrote UNIX in a Nutshell), the book is from Prentice Hall. MSRP=$40.

Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager – This book/CD, authored by Mel Gorman, presents both theoretical foundations & a line-by-line commentary in unprecedented detail. It covers everything from physical memory description to out-of-memory management. Published by Prentice Hall, MSRP=$60.

Interprocess Communications in Linux – The definitive guide to Linux processes and IPF for programmers and system administrators by John S. Gray from Prentice Hall. MSRP=$50.

Managing Linux Systems with Webmin – System Administration & Module Development by Jamie Cameron from Prentice Hall. MSRP=$45.

Next Generation Application Integration – From simple information to Web services, this book by David Linthicum from Addison-Wesley is an indispensable resource for those responsible for managing or implementing application-integration middleware. MSRP=$40.

Open Source Network Administration – Author James Kretchmar from MIT presents an extraordinary collection of open source tools for streamlining and improving virtually every facet of network administration. Publisher is Prentice Hall. MSRP=$45.

J2EE Security for Servlets, EJBs, and Web Services – This book by Pankaj Kumar from Prentice Hall is the definitive guide to securing server-side Java and covers every significant J2SE and J2EE security mechanism. MSRP=$50.

The Effective Incident Response Team – An Addison-Wesley book by Julie Lucas & Brian Moeller. A complete guide for network administrators & managers on dealing with computer attacks by intruders, worms, & viruses. MSRP=$40.

Biometrics for Network Security – Authored by expert Paul Reid, this book covers options ranging from fingerprint identification to voice verification to hand, face, & eye scanning from a practitioner's viewpoint. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=$45.

Know Your Enemy - Learning About Security Threats, 2nd Ed. – Max Kilger & Rob Lee provide an unrivaled "intelligence report" on those who use the Internet for destructive purposes plus an in-depth guide to honeynets—high-interaction honeypots designed to capture extensive information on exactly how your enemies operate so you can protect your systems from them. Book + CD from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$50.

Exploiting Software: How to Break Code – This book has the details you need to know about how attackers find software holes and exploit them – details that will help you secure your own systems. Authored by Greg Hoglund & Gary McGraw and published by Prentice-Hall. MSRP=$50.

DEFEND I.T. – Security by Example – Aimed at information-security professionals and network administrators, this book shows you how to tap the best computer-security practices and industry standards to deter attacks and better defend networks. Written by Ajay Gupta & Scott Laliberte and published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$35.

Secure Architectures with OpenBSD – Written by Brandon Palmer & Jose Nazario, this book is the insider's guide to building secure systems using OpenBSD. It is a how-to for system and network administrators who need to move to a more secure operating system as well as a reference for those users who want to fully exploit every feature of the system. From Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$35.

Essential Check Point FireWall-1 NG – An installation, configuration, and troubleshooting Guide authored by Dameon Welch-Abernathy (aka "PhoneBoy") from Addison-Wesley/Pearson Education. MSRP=$55.

WI-FOO The Secrets of Wireless Hacking – This hands-on, practical guide covers everything you need to attack or protect any wireless network. Authored by Andrew Vladimirov, Konstantin Gavrilenko, & Adrei Mikhailovsky, the book is published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$35.

A Field Guide to Wireless LANs for Administrators and Power Users – In this book, best-selling author Thomas Maufer explains how LANs work and how to make them work for you reliably & securely. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=$40.

Real 802.11 Security, Wi-Fi Protected Access & 802.11i – An Addison-Wesley book by Jon Edney & William Arbaugh provides what you need to know on wireless LAN security. MSRP=$45.

.Net Security & Cryptography – A book from Addison-Wesley by Peter Thorsteinson & G. Ganesh provides practical & comprehensive coverage on implementing cryptography and security in the Microsoft .Net platform. MSRP=$50.

Dreamweaver MX 2004 The Missing Manual – This 836-page book offers a rich environment for building professional web sites. Armed with this book, both first-time and experienced Web designers can build stunning, interactive web sites to life. Authored by David Sawyer McFarland who has been designing web sites since 1995 and David Pogue, tech columnists for the NY Times. MSRP=$35.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor **(714) 779-1936**
reviews@noccc.org .■

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:
http://www.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 Irvine Hall 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, are ready to assist with your problems, and are 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 reviews are published in this newletter.
- **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, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership commitee, and more.

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

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

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

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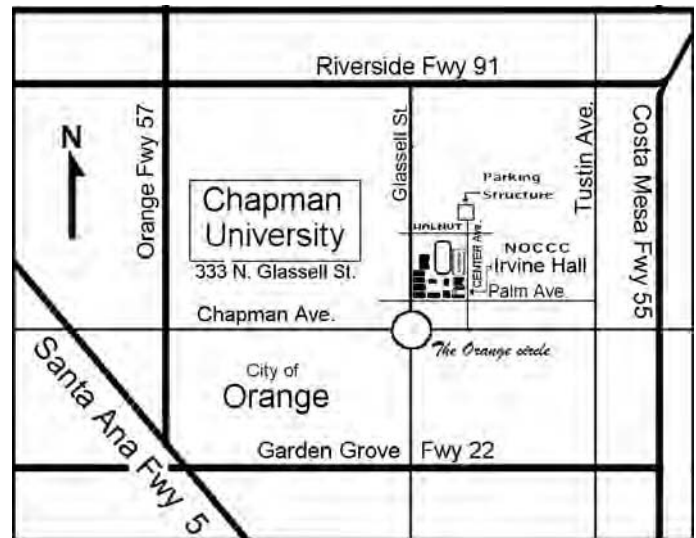
For current meeting information, please call
(714) 998-8080 for a recorded message.

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857

Address Service Requested

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

Dated Material - Please Expedite