

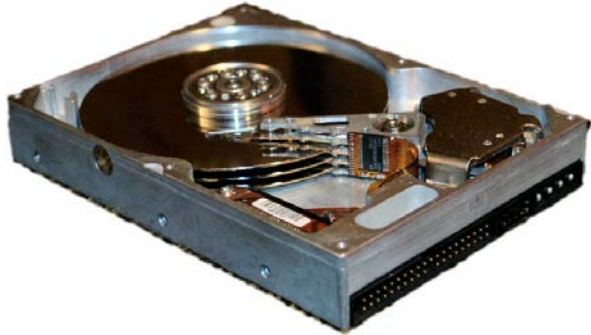


Orange Bytes

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

Vol 29 • No 11

NOVEMBER 2004



Hard Disk PVA* Day

*protect your assets

NOCCC Meetings - November 7

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 Irvine Hall
Gene Barlow, "Hard Drive Technology"
Computer Aided Investing Wilkinson 221
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Linux (Intermediate) Wilkinson 111

10:00 a.m.

Linux for Server Administrators 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 - Irvine Hall

More on hard disks and other stuff

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
Gene Barlow on backing up your hard disk

2:30 p.m.

Digital Imaging SIG - Irvine Hall
Speaker from Sammy's Cameras store

Genealogy Science 111
Discover your family history with modern tools

Hardware Essentials Science 109
OS/2 News and Installation Science 203

Coming in December

A NEW Assistive Technology SIG

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

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

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“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

The Digital Photo Day was a huge success! Lots of people brought their camera and manuals for the Hands on session at the New Technology SIG, and thanks to George Margolin, Jim Sanders, Jim Morrison, and Herb Wong for taking an area and answering everyone's personalized Digital Camera questions. We then had Lee Otsubo, The Digital Photo Guy, at the main meeting go over some of the Digital Photo Basics and later at the Digital Imaging SIG, Lee answered questions and made us guess which pictures were taken with how many mega pixels. Overall, a resounding success.



During the month, some very good programs came across my desk. Do you get frustrated when someone wants you to send them a PDF and you do not have a program to make one? Try CutePDF.com. There is a CutePDF writer that is a free download (don't forget to download the converter as you need both files to make it work), from which you can make basic PDF files with, versus a \$200 program.

Another program that Steve Bass from PC World found was free Adobe Reader SpeedUp. IF you have Adobe Acrobat especially version 6, it loads very, very slowly. If you do not use all the plug-ins that Acrobat loads (most people do not), this program will speed up the loading of Acrobat. To get the file, go to PCWorld.com and search for Adobe Speedup. You install it once and can uninstall if you need more plug-ins to be loaded.

Another change in the computer world this last week, was that Corel just bought JASC which makes PaintShop Pro, PaintShop Photo Album. Will Corel merge PaintShop with CorelDraw and PhotoPaint? Will it now be part of WordPerfect Suite? Only time will tell.

NOCCC just signed up for T-shirts and Golf shirts with Zazzle.com. You can go to this site and order your own NOCCC white or gray golf shirt or any type of t-shirt you can imagine. This way we do not have to carry any inventory, and you have the maximum of choices for sizes, colors, long or short sleeves, etc. Just go to Zazzle.com, type noccc into the search engine and order whatever you would like, even up to 5X or infant size. Start the grandkids early!

Our November 7th meeting will feature Gene Barlow of User Group Relations and formerly of IBM at the main meeting to talk about "Perfect Backup Approach" using such products as True Image, MoveMe and SecureClean (to prevent personal and private information from building up on your hard drive). Gene always has new tips and tricks to make your computer work for you.

The 9:30am New Technology meeting will be Hard Drive Technology- What makes your hard drive work? Hints and Tips by Gene Barlow. Gene keeps up with what is happening in hard drives and how to maximize their use. It should be interesting. Come join us! ■

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 <http://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 <http://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 - <http://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 the site:

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October Board Meeting Minutes



The Board minutes are published in the printed version of the Bytes which is mailed to the membership.

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NOVEMBER 7TH MEETING PREVIEW

NEW TECHNOLOGIES - at 9:30AM Gene Barlow will do a session on "Hard Drive Technology." A description of this topic can be found at <http://www.ugr.com/ugr6c.html> under the title "Hard Drive Technology Presentation."

MAIN MEETING 1:00PM, Irvine Hall - Our speaker will be Gene Barlow. The main thrust of Gene's presentation will be on why and how you should backup your hard disk. He will be talking about the various ways that you can protect your data by backing it up. The Acronis True Image back-up program is at the heart of his talk, but complimented by the SecureClean and Moveme programs.

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG - 2:30PM with Jim Morrison. The guest presenter will be from Sammy's Camera store

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will feature a Canon I250 color inkjet printer, Backup software 3.0, Digital Automobile Compass, FM Radio Mouse, and other items.

The **Member-only prize** (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be a USB Multi Flash Card Reader.

Consignment Table

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

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

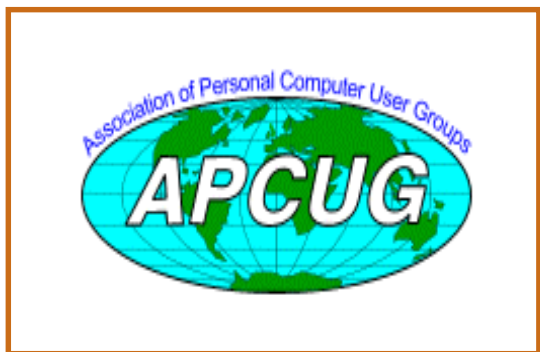
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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

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

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

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



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Linux and Open Source Software Advance Steadily

By Orv Beach, orv@orvsplace.net

Open Source Software (Linux and its application programs) continues to spread. Linux has won the server wars; it's all over but the shouting. It's now moving in on the corporate desktop. The next, and most challenging target, is the personal desktop.

Linux has become even easier to install now. If you've ever installed Windows, you'll be interested to know that some say that a Linux installation is easier than a Windows installation. It's easy to use, with the usual GUI (graphical user interface) features you'd expect. And the latest releases have concentrated on improving the desktop user experience. And did we mention it comes with just about every program you'd ever need: a full office suite; a great browser; an instant messenger; CD-burning software; network monitoring software. And the hits just keep on coming!

What is different from Windows is administering a Linux machine. The processes of adding and updating programs are different, but anyone who's the least bit familiar with computers can learn as they go, and be productive with Linux while they do it.

There are still a couple of areas where Linux trails Windows.

- Win modems and Win printers These are dumbed down devices where the driver does most of the work. This makes them cheaper, but noticeably impacts PC performance during due to CPU loading. Linux supports some, but not all, win modems. If you find you have an unsupported modem, the easy fix is to swap to an external modem (most are real modems), an older ISA modem (all are real modems), or a PCI modem that says specifically that it supports DOS (that will be a real modem). Win printers (dumbed-down printers) can be a similar problem. Fortunately there aren't many of them. If you want to know for sure if your printer is supported under Linux, consult <http://www.linuxprinting.org>.

- Games – Only a few of the very high-end games have been ported to Linux. It's more of the chicken and the egg problem than anything else. Game makers won't port their games to Linux until there's more gamers using Linux; the gamers won't move to Linux until there are more games available.

Many Open Source software packages have been ported to Windows. Here are some of the more notable ones:

FIREFOX - Computer users are steadily abandoning Internet Explorer because of several well-publicized

security vulnerabilities, and because Microsoft has not kept it current. Many of them are turning to Firefox, a secure, fast browser, available at <http://www.mozilla.org>. Firefox has many nifty extensions (add-ons) available, and pop-up blocking and tabbed browsing are standard.

OPEN OFFICE - OpenOffice.org's Open Office is a great replacement for Microsoft Office. It's full-featured, and free. It even can export to PDF. Version 1.1.2 is current, 1.1.3 is in pre-release testing and 2.0 is in late alpha. Both released and beta versions are available for downloading at <http://openoffice.org>

GAIM is a versatile multiprotocol instant messaging program. It supports AOL, MSN, ICQ, GroupWise Messenger, Gadu-Gadu, IRC, Napster, Yahoo, Zephyr, and Jabber. One thing it is missing is annoying advertisements. Available at: <http://gaim.sourceforge.net>

These packages and more are available for Microsoft Windows on TheOpenCD, at <http://theopencd.sunsite.dk/> for downloading as an ISO image for CD creation. If you don't have a broadband connection at home, copies of the CD can be purchased. And it's legal to make copies of the CD, as it is for all Open Source Software.

If you're considering moving away from Windows and towards Linux, the third annual Southern California Linux Expo will be a great way to learn more. It's February 12th and 13th at the Los Angeles Convention Center. There are tutorials on all sorts of topics, vendor booths, and "non-profit" booths, run by local Linux Users Groups. The LUGS are required to show what they'll be demonstrating to the attendees. In return they're given free booth space. Expanded to two days, SCALE will offer tutorial sessions for newcomers to Linux. For more information, see <http://www.socallinuxexpo.com>. Mark your calendars!

Linux is coming and it's unstoppable. SCALE is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor (well, the second floor, anyway ;-)) ■

GDI+ Vulnerability Problem in Microsoft Windows XP

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

A new and critical security problem was recently found in MS Windows and many programs that run under it. Some claim that this will be the worst seen so far. Personally, I think the year has been so bad that it would take much more to out-do it.

Because of a programming error call a "buffer-



overflow,” several components that render JPG files will allow a specially-crafted JPG to run another program with the default rights of the user. These components (DLL files) are sometimes included with other applications. So, both Windows and any program that include this file are vulnerable; therefore, diligence is needed to avoid the problem.

A quote from the horse’s mouth:

“Important: Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2) is not affected by the GDI+ issue, and installing Windows XP SP2 eliminates the GDI+ issue in affected Microsoft developer tools and imaging software. However, Windows XP SP2 users may have other Microsoft software installed that require updating. If you use Windows XP SP2 and Microsoft Office, please visit the Office Update Web site to scan your computer for needed updates.” - http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/200409_jpeg.msp Note the last two sentences. Basically, SP2 will not protect you in some cases.

Other MS products that are affected and they need to be updated:

- * The Microsoft .NET Framework version 1.0
- * Microsoft Picture It 2002 (all versions)
- * Microsoft Greetings 2002
- * Microsoft Picture It! version 7.0 (all versions)
- * Microsoft Digital Image Pro version 7.0
- * Microsoft Picture It! version 9 (all versions, including Picture It! library)
- * Microsoft Digital Image Pro version 9
- * Microsoft Digital Image Suite version 9
- * Microsoft Producer for Microsoft Office PowerPoint (all versions)
- * Microsoft Platform SDK Redistributable
[isecure.org](http://www.isecure.org) (shadow illusions) at <http://smartercomputing.ipbhost.com>.

Also, other applications that use the older version of GDIPLUS.DLL will be vulnerable, whether SP2 is installed or not. This can be fixed by either replacing the old DLLs with newer ones or contacting the vendor of the application for a new update.

Of course, the second option is a lot easier than the first. It is not supported by Microsoft and there is a lot of controversy about using it. If you do go with the first option, just be sure to save the old DLLs (rename them to something like GDIPLUS_OLD.DLL). Then if the application doesn’t work, rename the file back to GDIPLUS.DLL and try the second remedy above.

Another quote, this time from BUGTRAQ:

“I have received in excess of 10 responses from people who have, one way or another, been replacing vulnerable versions of gdiplus.dll (anywhere they find them) with the updated version. “They” say they have not encountered any problems.

In this regard, the safest approach mentioned has been to rename the old .dll to gdiplus.old, thereby preserving it in case you find something that does break (this advice according to Paul Wobbe).”

<http://www.networksecurityarchive.org/html/NTBugtraq/2004-09/msg00097.html>.

To see if you are vulnerable, you can either run the scanner from MS or the one from SANS. Some people prefer the SANS (Internet Storm) version because the Microsoft scanner doesn’t always catch every vulnerability. It only looks for vulnerabilities in MS applications and tells you if you are vulnerable or not, without saying what is bad or where the bad DLL is. Some people claim that sometimes it will not recognize problems with MS applications. The SANS scanner looks at all applications for the old DLL and lets you know where the problem lies. Then, you would use one of the two solutions listed in the previous paragraph.

Microsoft’s scanner can be found at:

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/4/9/f/49f511d3-adae-4dd7-aedd-1c7f81f633ec/gdidettool.exe>.

The SANS scanner can be found at <http://isc.sans.org/gdiscan.php>. More information can be found in Technet articles MS04-027 and MS04-028. (Sorry about the ridiculously long URLs.) ■

Will Santa Claus Bring Orcs & Aliens to Your Door?

A Holiday Video Game Review

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC
teveringham@acm.org

There is a big buzz about the new video game consoles now in development, but they will not be here this holiday season. We have to continue to look at titles for the Playstation 2, Xbox, and GameCube, along with the ever-evolving platform, the PC.

Two big titles for the coming out in the summer and fall of this year for the PC have been ID’s **Doom 3** (Activision) and Valve’s **Half Life 2** (Vivendi Universal Games), both first-person shooters. Both require a 3GHz processor or higher, a top of the line 3 D video card that has come out in the last year, and 512-1024 MB of RAM to play effectively with all the options turned on. Even then some people are reporting their computers are too slow. The game play on Doom 3 is not as good as expected, and in parts so are the graphics. Based on the information at this writing, Half Life 2 is your better bet on a graphically high-end video game for your PC. If you want a tried and true graphically high-end first-person shooter, got with **Far Cry** or possibly the less hardware-intensive Electronic Arts’ **Battlefield Vietnam**, both which came out earlier this year.

Of course the biggest game probably this holiday season will be Bungie’s **Halo 2** for the Xbox (Microsoft Game Studios). The original Halo is why so many people bought the Xbox in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Orcs & Aliens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the first place, and the new version looks even greater. It is a first-person shooter and is best player in multiplayer mode with the players in your home with 1-4 Xboxes connected together or via Xbox Live (I have played the original Halo with two teams of 7-8 playing against each other and it is was fantastic fun). I expect people will be lined up outside the stores on November 9 when it will go on sale. It should be out later for the PC just as the original was, but most Halo fans will not wait.

Another favorite is expected to be Lucas Arts' **Star Wars Battlefront** for the PC, Xbox, & PS2. There you can fight the battles in the Star Wars movies as an individual soldier with all the neat vehicles. You can chose between soldier types within each side of the conflicts. Multiplayer is available for LAN & Internet. There will be no additional fees for Internet play for online play on PC or Playstation 2 if you have a network adapter for them. For Xbox you will need to subscribe to Xbox Live (up to 16 players on Playstation 2, 24 players on Xbox, and 32 players on PC). There is a split screen mode for offline multiplayer play. As has been the past with Star Wars games developed by Pandemic Studios in Los Angeles, the game is reported to be fantastic and a blast to play. If you want something of more sword fighting in your role playing game try Ubisoft's **Prince of Persia 2: Warrior Within** for Playstation 2, Xbox, GameCube, and PC. Another sword fighting RPG is **Onimusha 3: Demon Siege** from Capcom for the Playstation 2. Also on the Game Cube is Nintendo's **Metroid Prime 2: Echoes**.

One of the most interesting games is Lionhead Studios' **Fable** for the Xbox (Microsoft Game Studios). This game has been in development for a long time because it has wanted to be a break thorough it the area of role playing games, and I think it has succeeded. You start out as a 17-year-old boy and journey through life until you are 45. Every action has a consequence for the future. It will determine how other characters in the game treat you and even how your physical appearance changes over time. You can wind up as the hero that people cheer every time you arrive in a town and your wife thanks God every day that she married you or a villain that everyone wants to avoid except for possibly other villains.

If you are into real time strategy, you should definitely look for **The Lord of the Rings: The Battle For Middle Earth** (Electronic Arts). It is a step above anything that has gone before in the RTS games from the viewpoints of graphics, animation, and game play. If you have seen the History Channel's **Decisive Battles**, you have already seen the game engine and animation in **Rome: Total War**. The technology from it was used in the series to show how actual battles were fought in the ancient world. It also looks to be a good RTS game.

If you want to experience the difficulties of what the US and its allies face in Iraq, try THQ's **Full Spectrum Warrior**, a real-time squad-based game developed from a US Army training aid that revolves around a fictional Middle Eastern country in the present day. Also developed by Pandemic Studios in Los

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Cyber Security Challenge to Media and Civic Groups

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG BOD, Columnist for The Examiner in Texas and a police officer

It is that time of year again, and I remember what many of you said to me at this time last year. Several of my loyal readers commented a year ago "well if only we knew about it earlier" or some similar sentiment. Now I am giving the local media, civic groups, computer clubs, professional associations, schools at all levels, and colleges ample advance notice that National Cyber Security Day will again occur on October 31. Last year in this column, I mentioned that it was more important than ever that we secure our computers from attack, as it was only a matter of time until we suffered mass attacks on our critical cyber infrastructure.

Regrettably, the cyber attacks have not just started, but are well underway. I attended a national homeland security DACUM (developing a curriculum) in Houston, where a blue-ribbon panel of homeland security experts from a variety of backgrounds, including the FBI, CIA, military, local and state law enforcement and government agencies, DC area think tanks, and academia worked together to determine the competencies required of students seeking degrees in the various areas of homeland security. One of the participants cited a published continuum of terrorism comparing the frequency and intensity of acts of terrorism. At one end of the continuum was high intensity – low frequency "macro event", such as the dastardly attacks on 9/11; at the other end is low intensity – high frequency "micro events" such as the viruses, worms, crackers, hackers, and Trojans that attempt to penetrate our personal computers on an extremely frequent basis. During one of the lunch breaks, we had a friendly academic discussion concerning the degree of damage occurring from a single macro attack compared to hundreds of thousands of simultaneous micro attacks, such has happened with the Code Red, Nimda, Sasser and other mass virus and Trojan attacks that crippled much of our cyber

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LIGAS Microsystems

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Routers installed

sick computers healed

jsanders@ligasmicro.com

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NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



infrastructure. Countless billions of dollars in damage was done by these and other cyber attacks that effectively combined millions of vulnerable personal computers into a fearsome weapon that was launched at our vulnerable institutions. In this matter, I proposed that massive and coordinated micro attacks could potentially equal the effect of a single macro attack.

Another participant cited the recent case of a teenager who cracked into the air traffic control system, and had the ability to alter the images seen on controllers' screens. While this miscreant was stopped before there was any serious damage, the potential for catastrophic damage was present. Now imagine a "what-if" scenario of terrorists bent on again wreaking havoc on our air commerce and society in a similar way. Already attacks have been recorded on the critical "SCADA" control systems that are utilized in almost all of our refineries, power distribution

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Tips & Tricks on Microsoft.com

To get the most out of your PC software, read Tips & Tricks for your favorite programs.

Microsoft Office

Top Tips for Word (2003, Word 2002, and Word 2000).

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010963811033&CTT=98>

Top Tips for Excel

These tips apply to Excel 2003, Excel 2002, and Excel 2000.

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010874771033&CTT=98>

Top Tips for PowerPoint

These tips apply only to PowerPoint 2003.

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010911281033&CTT=98>

Top Tips for Outlook

These tips apply only to Outlook 2003.

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010970221033&CTT=98>

Top Tips for Access

These tips apply to Access 2003, Access 2002, and Access 2000.

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010863241033&CTT=98>

Top Tips for FrontPage

These tips apply to FrontPage 2003.

<http://office.microsoft.com/assistance/preview.aspx?AssetID=HA010965761033&CTT=98>

Office XP Tips

For more tips and tricks focused just on Office XP, visit this site. The tips on this site are adapted from the book *Microsoft Office XP Inside Out*, written by Michael Halvorson and Michael J. Young and published by Microsoft

Press.

<http://www.microsoft.com/Office/using/tips/mspresstips.htm>

Tablet PC Tips

Read up on how to get the most out of Windows XP Tablet PC Edition.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/tabletpc/using/tips/default.asp>

Microsoft Windows

Windows XP Expert Zone

Each week, you'll find several new user-submitted tips or tricks that will help you become a Windows XP expert.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/tips/default.asp>

To view tips specifically for Windows XP Professional, visit this site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/tips/default.asp>

To view tips specifically for Windows XP Home Edition, visit this site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/home/using/tips/default.asp>

Windows Me

To view tips specifically for Windows ME, visit this site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsME/using/tips/default.asp> ■

Tech News

By Sue Crane, Vice President / Editor, Big Bear Computer Club, California

Sony plans to launch a new camcorder in November that can record and play back high-definition video. The device, part of the company's Handycam line, records and plays back video with a resolution of 1,440 pixels by 1,080 lines, the highest in any consumer camcorder. It also features a 3.5-inch, wide-screen LCD display. Sony claims an image in the display can be enlarged up to four times its original size without any loss of resolution. The HDR-FX1 camcorder will sell for about \$3,700.

Intel Corp. President Paul S. Otellini demonstrated new chips scheduled for release next year that simultaneously run tasks such as burning CDs and playing video games. We're not writing video game reviews for kids who play five hours a day. We're writing for the grown-up who may play five hours a week. Hoping to increase the 5-hour adult gaming average, **Perpetual Entertainment** will develop the first major online game based on Paramount Pictures' **'Star Trek'** for a monthly fee.

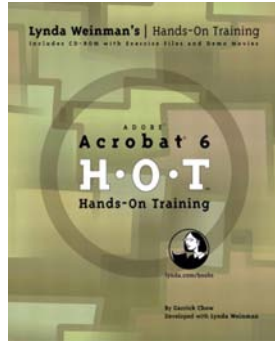
High-resolution images of 21 original Shakespeare texts, in 93 different versions, are now available on the British Library Web site. Viewers can read the plays in the same format that

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Adobe Acrobat 6 Hands-On-Training

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

The book, covering both Standard and Pro versions of Acrobat 6, is co-authored by Garrick Chow and Lynda Weinman (<http://www.lynda.com>). Garrick is an Adobe-Certified Acrobat expert and author of the H-O-T book for the Mac OS X version of Acrobat 5. Lynda originated the “Hands-On-Training series” and is a teacher as well as a designer who specializes in graphics, animation, and Web site design. They have done an outstanding job in putting together the 92 step-by-step tutorials in 16 chapters that make up this 654-page book. The accompanying CD contains the pertinent source file lessons for “difficult” concepts and QuickTime demo movies, and copies of Adobe 6 Reader and QuickTime 6.



The book is highly illustrated with truly viewable graphics making it easy to follow directions for accomplishing each task and contains lots of accompanying “insider” tips. Whether you are a beginner or intermediate-level user of Acrobat, the lessons (for both XP and Mac OS X users) will teach you the fundamentals, if you are willing to put in the time, and like to read. The lessons cover a variety of document formats, including illustrated article, story, newsletter, brochure, form, presentation, and movie. The lessons can be used with Windows NT 4/2000/XP as well as Mac OSX 10.2.2 (or later).

The book’s tutorial lessons were a valuable accompaniment for me as I did two reviews on Acrobat 6 for the Orange Bytes plus an article on navigating within PDFs. And it helped reinforce my learning experience when I initially used the built-in Acrobat software Help information and on-line Adobe Tutorials. To me, nothing beats the book’s step-by-step lessons from two fine authors.

The first two chapters address the fundamentals of the Acrobat software and the PDF format as well as the Acrobat interface and the basic viewing and navigating tools. While there are no formal lessons here, several movies on the CD nicely illustrate how to use some important tools.

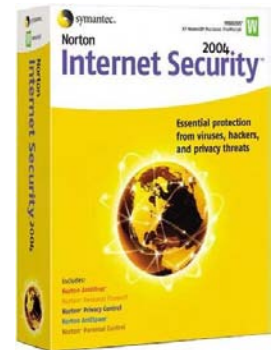
Subsequent chapters cover: 1. the use of Links, which is critical for navigating in PDF documents; 2. creating

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Norton Internet Security 2004, Professional Version

By Bill Crane, NOCCC

This program is a tightly integrated online security and privacy suite that protects against viruses, hackers, spam e-mail, inappropriate content and privacy threats. It includes the latest versions of Norton AntiVirus, Norton Personal Firewall, Norton Intrusion Detection, Norton Privacy Control, a new Norton AntiSpam, and Norton Parental Control. The professional version includes all of the components of Norton Internet Security 2004 as well as data recovery, a data cleaning component, Advanced Web tools, Norton Productivity Control, Workgroup Network Wizard and User Access Manager.



The program is installed from a single CD disk by following the instructions on the computer screen; inserting the address book and sites to be allowed or bared from access may take an hour or so. The default installation is usually the best option. A User’s Guide is provided which details each element of each of the programs in the suite. All components are easily accessed from the user interface. Updating is required, of course, as new online threats emerge daily. Alerts will prompt the user with enough information to make an informed decision on how to proceed. System requirements for Windows XP home or professional edition are an Intel Pentium II 300 MHz or higher processor, and 128 MB of RAM.

AntiVirus 2004 protects computers at all virus entry points including inbound and outbound email, instant message attachments and Internet downloads. It also blocks email worms and script-based viruses even before a new virus definition is available. Virus infections are automatically repaired. Trojan horses and worms are removed without interrupting the user’s work. Non-virus emerging threats and virus infections in Windows 2000 and XP are detected in real-time before file archives are used. It alerts the user of spyware programs that may expose the user’s private data as well as other hacking tools such as keystroke logging programs that may compromise system security. File attachments from Yahoo! Messenger, AOL Instant Messenger, MSN Messenger and Windows Messenger incoming file attachments are scanned and cleaned. When connected

to the Internet, virus definitions are automatically downloaded and updated. Suspicious files are safely quarantined; Scan and Deliver sends infected files to Symantec Security Response for analysis and repair.

Personal Firewall 2004 provides a full firewall, comprehensive privacy protection, program control, ad blocking and a complete intrusion detection system. It automatically controls inbound and outbound Internet connections, examines the actual content of Internet traffic for attacks, and prevents confidential information, not just cookies or active content, from being sent to unsecured Web sites, email and instant messaging services. Network Detector is a new feature that identifies accessible networks and adjusts security settings accordingly, based on the available network. This helps laptop users to get immediate protection from online threats regardless of the network they connect to. Another new feature is the Web Assistant that allows convenient access to ad blocking and cookie blocking settings directly within Microsoft Internet Explorer. Norton Intrusion Detection inspects the content of Internet traffic for online attacks such as Nimda and Code Red, and automatically blocks these attacks when detected. Visual tracking graphically tracks the source of attempted intrusions/attacks on a world map. Password Protection protects against improper settings and product shutdown. The Block Traffic feature allows the user to stop/resume Internet traffic with the press of a button. The Alert Assistant guides the user through response to security alerts. Automatic LiveUpdate automatically updates firewall rules and intrusion detection signatures without interrupting the user. Privacy Control blocks cookies and active content as well as private information from being sent through email, MS Office attachments, MSN Messenger, Windows Messenger and AOL Instant Messenger. It also blocks banner ads, pop-up/under blocking and other Web distractions. While monitoring inbound and outbound Internet connections, it makes the user's PC invisible over the Internet.

Norton AntiSpam 2004 automatically and accurately detects and filters out unwanted email in POP3 connections from the user's MS Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora Hotmail, and MSN Mail in-boxes. The user is protected from pirated or counterfeit software by a product activation component. An engine learns what is and isn't spam by analyzing the user's outgoing messages. An Allowed List prevents friendly email from being marked as spam. A Trusted Mode enables users to configure the computer to accept email only from approved senders. The User-configurable Blocked List identifies specific email addresses as spammers. A Setup Assistant facilitates importing of your address book into the Allowed List and Automatic LiveUpdate, operating in the background, keeps your protection up-to-date without user intervention.

Included in the advanced utilities is **UnErase Wizard** which locates and recovers file that are protected by Norton Protection or the Windows Recycle bin. Norton Protection adds extra recovery protection to the Recycle Bin. When used in conjunction with UnErase Wizard, it provides the most complete recovery system for all deleted or overwritten files. Wipe Info permanently removes unwanted files so that they never can be recovered by a file recovery program. It can also wipe the free

space on the hard disk to ensure that previously deleted information is not left on the hard disk.

Norton Internet Security 2004 Professional is a valuable tool for the home user, small business and the professional. It compares favorably and even has some advantages over McAfee Internet Security v.5.0, ZoneAlarm PRO 3.1, BlackIce PC Protection 3.6 and Virus Buster 2003 Real Security/PC-illin 2003.

Norton Internet Security 2004 is available for \$69.95 (MSRP); Norton Internet Security 2004 Professional is \$99.95; 5- and 10-user packs are \$449.95 and \$799.95, respectively. An individual boxed copy of the Pro version can be had for as low as \$65 on the Internet including S&H. One year of protection updates is included with the purchase of Norton Internet Security 2004. The software is a product of Symantec Corp. More information, including magazine reviews, can be found at <http://www.symantec.com>.

Editor's Comment: While Norton Internet Security has been among the top-rated security programs by the computer magazines, some negative comments have been aired regarding the 2004 Suite. According to PC Magazine's John Clyman (March 2, 2004), "Spyware blocking, detection, and removal turn out to be weak components of the otherwise excellent Norton Internet Security 2004, which earned an Editors' Choice award in (the Nov. 25, 2003) roundup of Internet security suites."

According to PC World, the 2005 versions of the Norton Suite will be available in October. And it is supposed to address the shortcomings in the 2004 version. ■

Mac OS X Help Desk Essentials

By Carla Reisch, NOCCC

Mac OS X Help Desk Essentials is not intended for the average user. This book is meant to be used as part of Apple's official training course for help desk personnel, technical coordinators, and system administrators. Each chapter is set up as a "lesson," so that the reader can, upon completion of the book, take Apple's certification exam. There are twelve lessons in all, with three appendices containing additional troubleshooting information, as well as a comprehensive glossary of terms relating to the Mac OS and networking. The information in this book covers the latest version of the Mac OS, 10.3.3, also known as "Panther." Lessons one through four explain the installation process,



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Mac OS X

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setting up multiple user accounts, the Mac OS file system, and application environments. This book should not be read passively: each lesson should be executed on a Mac. The first page of each lesson tells the reader approximately how much time the lesson will take (about one to two hours), and what the goals of that lesson are. Step-by-step instructions and plenty of screen shots make the tutorial a satisfying experience. At the end of the chapter, there is a summary of the main points and a list of relevant Knowledge Base articles (available online at <http://kbase.info.apple.com>). (Note: Apple's Knowledge Base is a free online resource and is available to everyone, not just technical personnel.) Finally, there is a short review quiz to reinforce what you have learned. Answers follow the quiz questions so you can evaluate your understanding of the material.

Although lessons one through four contain useful information for all users, the remainder of the book demands a more technical-savvy audience. Anyone who services or administrates Mac networks would find lessons five through eight an absolute necessity. These lessons explain the networking protocols of the Mac OS in great detail, including the command-line interface, a feature of UNIX operating systems. (Mac OS X is based on a UNIX shell, which is directly accessible through the command-line interface: a feature not recommended for the casual user!)

The next unit (lessons nine and ten), covers peripherals and printing in Mac OS X. The list of peripheral devices covered is comprehensive: SCSI, USB 1.1/2.0, FireWire 400/800, and Bluetooth. There are plenty of step-by-step examples, accompanied by screen shots, for setting up various external devices. Lesson nine also includes troubleshooting peripherals.

The advice given in this lesson would be useful for any computer user, regardless of platform. Lesson ten includes setting up and sharing printers over any network, whether it be Macs only or a combination of Macs and PCs. (Mac OS X utilizes a new technology called *Rendezvous*, a protocol developed by Apple for automatic discovery of computers, devices, and services on IP networks. As of this writing, several manufacturers have agreed to implement *Rendezvous* in peripherals such as printers.)

The final two lessons focus on the technical details of how Mac OS X starts up, and how to implement Apple's General Troubleshooting Flowchart to deal with software issues. The troubleshooting lesson is a real gem! Some of the troubleshooting suggestions given in this lesson include keeping notes on each test you perform along with the results, and writing down your proposed solution so you have a record of what you tried (and what worked or didn't work). The next section of this lesson describes the recommended order of elimination when faced with troubleshooting issues. User-related problems should be considered first, followed by software-related problems, OS-related problems, and, finally, hardware-related problems. Following this order promotes the most efficient and cost-effective solution, since hardware-

related problems (last in the list) often represent the most costly type of repair. Of course, the reader is reminded to search Apple's extensive Knowledge Base for solutions to specific issues. For the average user, this book is too technical. Most people would be better served by the Mac OS X volume in *The Missing Manual* series. However, this self-paced tutorial is a good supplement, or even an alternative, to an instructor-led class for those seeking certification from Apple. (As an incentive, Apple includes a \$50 discount voucher for the certification exam, which essentially refunds the cost of the book.) Even those not seeking certification, such as system administrators that service or provide technical support for the Mac in addition to PCs, would find this book an essential reference work.

(Peachpit Press, 2005; ISBN: 0321278488; MSRP=\$50 less a 10% discount from publisher) ■

Internet Cleanup 3.0 by Aladdin Systems

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Among other virtues, Internet Cleanup is a selective stopper for popper-upper ads on the Internet. It even counts the numbers of popups it has prevented and displays that number in the browser menu. It's also a banner banner. What else does it do for the price \$30 or less? Quite a bit. Scope out its athleticism from their own literature: It prevents, detects, and obliterates spyware; purges cache files when you boot up Internet Explorer; deletes history logs once a week; checks for/erases Spyware every hour; removes keystroke recorders, kills screen capture programs; provides an intelligence report before you clean folders and files; cleans across networks from only one computer; performs selective cookie bashing; completely shreds files; and finally, gives a one year subscription to updated spyware profiles. Considering that there are several thousand spyware programs stalking the ether, this last is a pretty good idea, right?

Most of the above is gleaned from the company's ads, but is unabashedly offered the reader because it all works well after a thankfully short and completely painless installation. Afterward, intuitive operation is the hackneyed but appropriate *nom de guerre* here.



Below is a summary screen preceding the actual cleanup.



One caveat is that although Alladin offers a year of free updates on spyware profiles, the updating of version 3.0 – the one given to NOCCC and reviewed here — merely states that all the improvements to 3.0 are already installed, after which Alladin makes the offer of V 4.0 for \$19.95 plus the ubiquitous S&H.

If you're a picky speller, don't count on ad copy (as if you hadn't noticed). Amazon spells it both ways on the same page: Aladdin and Alladin. The trusty Funk & Wagnalls folks opt for the former. Maybe in our lifetime, we'll see Alladdinn, right? While in the shower with the water running, I tried verbalizing all three, but couldn't hear any differences except a little dragging on the last version. Maybe that's why they just recently changed their company name to Allume Systems.

Allume Systems, Inc., 245 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076. Phone: 831-768-3630. FAX: 831-761-6206.

A free trial CD containing all of Aladdin's programs is available for \$6.95 S&H. Purchasing Internet Cleanup V 4.0 outright runs \$29.99 from Alladin plus \$6.99 S&H. A CD backup of the download is \$10.95.

Buy a burner, folks. <http://www.allume.com/win/cleanup/index.html>

Amazon.com saves you a bit at \$27.99. 2BuyStore.com does even better at \$23.56: <http://www.2buystore.com/shopdisplaydetail.asp?id=D44352&Ref=DEAL>

I've gained profound knowledge about market psychology from these vendors. The next time my friend Elwood asks how to list his house price, it will be for \$599,999.99, reduced from \$600,000.01. Actually, it's only worth \$599,999.98, according to Pricey Appraiser.

System Requirements: Windows 98/ME/2000/XP, 30 MB of disk space, 8 MB RAM (16 MB for Windows 2000/XP), Internet Explorer 5.01 (or later), AOL 7.0 or 8.0, MSN or Netscape Mozilla based browser.

For more information on this product, visit the vendor's web site at <http://www.allume.com/win/cleanup/index.html>. ■

Malware - Fighting Malicious Code

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

Both authors (Ed Skoudis and Lenny Zeltser) are instructors at the SANS Institute - the premier organization for security. Ed Skoudis teaches classes on Incident Response and has authored the book "Counter Hack," while Lenny Zeltser gives courses on reverse engineering.

This is a killer combination. The 672-page book shows you what to do when you are hacked (Incident Response) and how the program works (reverses engineering).

Almost every aspect of Malware is covered: How can they slip into my machine? How do I notice them before it's too late? How do I counter act (counter hack) them? How do I figure out what a program is doing?

The book also talks about how the CPU and BIOS can be reprogrammed and possibly exploited by a virus, something I never considered.

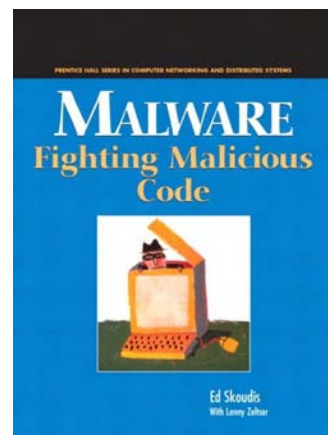
The book explains real-life scenarios and points out where mistakes were made and what the owners/users should have done. Like the author says: "I'm a big fan of learning from the mistakes of others."

In the last chapter the authors explain how to put a malware research lab together. For anyone who is either a professional in the security world or just a curious amateur, this chapter is a big draw. It tells you what you need to look into the heart of software that wants to kill your computer.

Programmers need to read this book to see what to avoid and how to thwart another's questionable efforts. For example, mixing data with code is just asking someone to execute data. Programmers that do that are really 'cruising for a bruising.' Bruisers/abusers can input a string that will run as a virus. Did you know that the EICAR virus is made of just printable (inputable) characters?

System Administrators or anybody who is in charge of protecting computers needs to read this book to get a insight about how the system works and how it can be attacked. Both Linux and Windows systems need to be hardened, and understanding the system will help you do that.

The book is timeless. It seems to have predicted the big threat today - the JPG or GDI exploit. They explained how it can be a problem if data can be executed (like data in a JPG file), and



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Malware

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how the system can be subverted with a bad DLL (another part of the nasty JPG story).

The only negatives I have about the book are:

1. I wish the lists were put in an appendix for future reference. I'm left with having to skim through the book and write-down anything I think might be helpful.

2. A personal gripe I have is the cute little sketches that don't explain anything and insult the reader's intelligence. For example; the pictures of a worm infection that is just one computer wearing a black-hat, another frowning, and an arrow between them. I would like to see more charts, tables, and screen shots. Even a picture that explains something that isn't obvious and doesn't assume the reader is still in pre-school.

Also, some of the analogies are a bit of a stretch, like comparing OOP (object oriented programming) with virtual hamsters in a circus. But then, maybe my imagination is having problems today.

Many people have said that user education is the only way to combat the problems we all have. It doesn't stop there. This book gives IT-savvy people the education they need today.

Publisher: Prentice Hall; ISBN: 0-13-101405-6; Suggested retail price: \$44.99. The publisher is offering a 10 % discount at <http://www.phptr.com/title/0131014056>. ■

Digital Photography Hacks

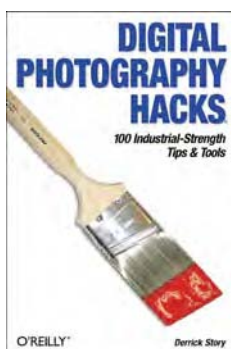
100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Author Derrick Story has a welcome take on the word "hack." From the pejorative which it has become, Story elevates it by revealing that among code writers, hack means a quick and clever way to solve a nuisance problem. In the same light, Roy Emerson, one of the world's best tennis players, once described himself as just a hacker. Would that we all were such hackers on the court or the keyboard.

At \$29.95 MSRP, the book, while not exactly cheap, is well worth the price. Story's style is clearly understandable and compactly informative, without being the least esoteric. He consistently gives websites as needed. The quality of the paper is excellently appropriate for the amazingly accurate color pictures illustrating both hardware and photo results. Such pictures are commendably included on at least as many pages as not.

Enough maundering. A new type of review is hereby foisted upon you. Foisted? Story presents his solutions and hints in



non-sequential form, an admirable arrangement as is the case with several other digital photo books out there. Not to dismay a customer, he does provide notes within his recommendations if one of them requires knowledge of another hack. The new style of review? Because of the independent insertions, his topics and this writer's analyses are presented piecemeal by chapter and sometimes by page number. If you like what you see, let me know and I'll be glad to loan you the book. For a while. You saw it here first.

Chapter 1. Digital Camera Attachments. The screw-on, bolt-on, strap-on hardware described here is just as useful for film cameras as digital. Descriptions of various styles of tripods and attachment arms are followed by a technique to transform your sun-washed digital viewing pane into a virtual single lens reflex (SLR) by shopping at <http://www.hoodmanusa.com> for an eyepiece that shuts out all external light as you strap one end of the soft black rubber onto your digital screen and advance your little eye into the viewing area. How cool is that! I bought one before I read the book. They work. They're cheap.

T-mounts, extension tubes, and ring reversing are old hat for film users, but their utility for digital work is not be denied, albeit their inclusion somewhat belies the accuracy of the book title. Battery life, car chargers and even solar charging are more on digital target along with their very welcome website addresses. Last, the black "gaffer's tape" is more than a little useful for shutting out light, taping down cords, etc. A \$15 roll might well last a lifetime.

Chapter 2. Daytime Photo Secrets. Pantyhose diffusion filters take years off of wrinkles. Digital SLR's (DSLR) have almost negligible shutter lag, but cost is about \$1,000 and up. And up. If you're seriously thinking about getting one, shop for the Canon 20D a la The Photo Guy. I'll loan you this book if you loan me your camera. At the other end of cost, the Point and Shoot cameras do great jobs these days, but generally should be set at as high a resolution as possible. Use sunglasses as polarizing filters. For panoramas, use a tripod, set f/stops and shutter speeds on manual for consistent sky color, and leave the stitching to one of several programs now available. Photographing classroom white boards? Keep the camera plane parallel to the board, turn off the flash and make sure the camera is steady. The remainder of the chapter includes making your own passport photo, using macro techniques, attending white balance, using flash vs. available light, and creating multiple exposures. Surprise, surprise: The section on infrared photography unabashedly states that "older digital cameras often work better than newer ones." The pronounced differences between light and dark areas captured using infrared are startlingly dramatic. Useful and unusual hint: Test the 'infraredness' of your camera by aiming a TV remote into the lens of your digital camera after covering the lens with an R72 infrared filter. If the remote's light shows up on the digital viewing screen, IR photography is a definite, er, likely possibility. Exposures are long with infrared light even in bright daylight, so do use a tripod. The best IR pictures often include trees, sky, and clouds. The chapter conclusion discusses depth of

field, manual shutter setting, softening portrait backgrounds, and improving your photos by analyzing meta data.

Chapter 3. Nighttime Photo Hacks. Flash fears, red eye combat, blinking subjects, streaming lights, ISO management, star filters, colored gels, fireworks, moonlight, and finally, star trails.

Subsequent chapters are fully as informative as the previous ones, but space limitations preclude extending this review. You do get the idea, though, right? Remaining chapters beckon with the titles:

Chapter 4. Magic with Flash.

Chapter 5. The Computer Connection.

Chapter 6. Photoshop Magic.

Chapter 7. Camera-Phone Tricks.

Chapter 8. Weekend Photo Projects.

You can get free information regarding the intrigues below by navigating to

<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/digphotohks/chapter/index.html>

Walking-Stick Mount

Convert Your Digidig to a Digital SLR

Pantyhose Diffusion Filter for Flattering Portraits

Starlight Effects for Candles and Lights

Second-Curtain Flash for Cool Effects

Judge Sharpness by File Size

Brighten Teeth

Hand-Color with the History Brush

Get the Big Picture with a Little Camera Phone

Capture Pictures of Your TV Screen

Story, Derrick. Digital Photography Hacks. O'Reilly Media, Inc. 1005 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, CA 95472. ©2004. \$29.95 US. FREE GROUND SHIPPING for all orders of \$29.95 or up. Amazon sells it for \$17.99 used and \$20.37 new. ■

Orcs & Aliens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Angeles, it is for the PC and Xbox with online play available. If you want to be the bad guy in the James Bond universe check out Electronic Arts' **Goldeneye: Rogue Agent** for Playstation 2, Xbox and GameCube. Of course if you want to play the good secret operative, there is the stealthy **Sam Fisher of Ubisoft's** of Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell series. The third installment "**Chaos Theory**" has been delayed until March, but **Pandora Tomorrow** that came out last spring is still good for the PC, Playstaion2, Xbox, and Game Cube.

Sony Online Entertainment's **Everquest II** is a world 500 years after the current Everquest; but with enriched graphics, better game play, and better adventures. Unlike a lot of these games, Everquest II does not just throw you into the virtual world to

fend for yourself the best you can. You start off on a large sailing ship with only you and a bunch of computer-generated 3D characters where you find out how the world works before you get to the first town and interaction with other players. It's designed for the experienced massively multiplayer online role-playing game player as well as the novice. Unlike Everquest, there will be no Mac version and it will be for Windows only. For those of you Star Wars Galaxies fans who have been disappointed that you can't journey into space and duke it out in a X-Wing Fighter, Lucas Arts/Sony Online Entertainment's **Star Wars Galaxies: Jump To Light Speed** expansion pack will be out in time for the Holidays.

One of the games that is the
best selling game ever
is Electronic Arts' *The Sims*

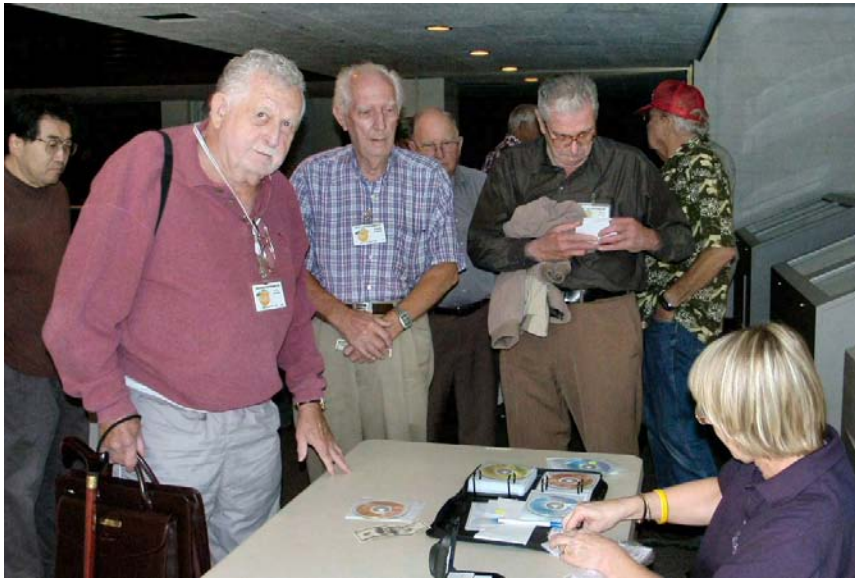
The **Sims 2** is very different. Your characters are fully 3D, detailed, and you get up close with them. They have motivations that cause them to act in certain and sometimes unexpected ways. You can control up to 4 characters and are creating a story of a family over multiple generations. It sounds serious, but you can have some fun by creating episodes right out of a soap opera.

If you want to laugh while you're playing a game, go for **Destroy All Humans!** from THQ and Pandemic Studios. It is a parody of all those 1950s alien invasion movies where you play the alien. It is for Playstation 2 and Xbox. Sony's **Grand Turismo 4** car racing sim for the PS 2 is finally coming out before the end of the year and it looks like it is worth the wait. It has great graphics, 100 courses and 500 cars to drive plus online play with up to 6 players. A good racing sim for the hard core and novice is **NASCAR 2005 Chase for the Cup** (Electronic Arts) for Playstation 2, GameCube, and Xbox. Of course there is always Electronic Arts' **Madden NFL 2005** for PC, Playstation2, Xbox, and GameCube (Electronic Arts is usually a good bet for sports games). For the younger set I would look at Microsoft Games Studios' **Zoo Tycoon 2** and some of the offerings from THQ. Nintendo also has been known for having good games for kids, but they are for GameCube only.

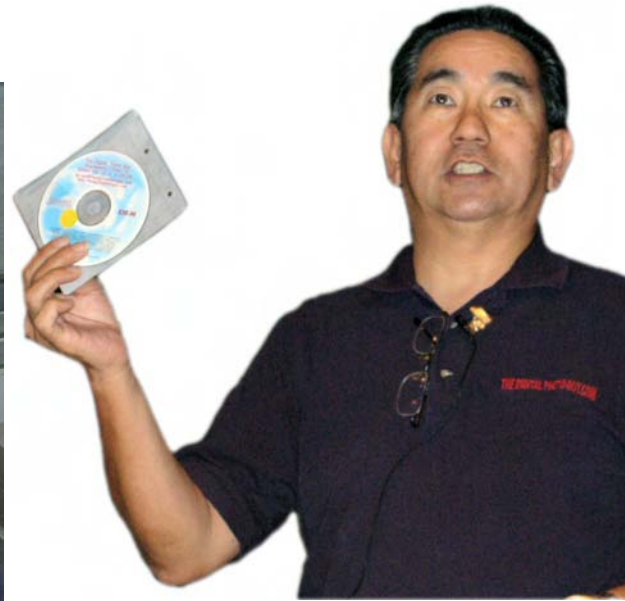
Yes, at this holiday season there will be celebrations all over. However, that will include the individual celebrations of those who, on their gaming platforms, protect the human race from **orcs and aliens**.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH. 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. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham> ■

October Photos



Sales of Lee's training and program CDs was brisk.



The Digital Photo Guy
Lee Otsubo

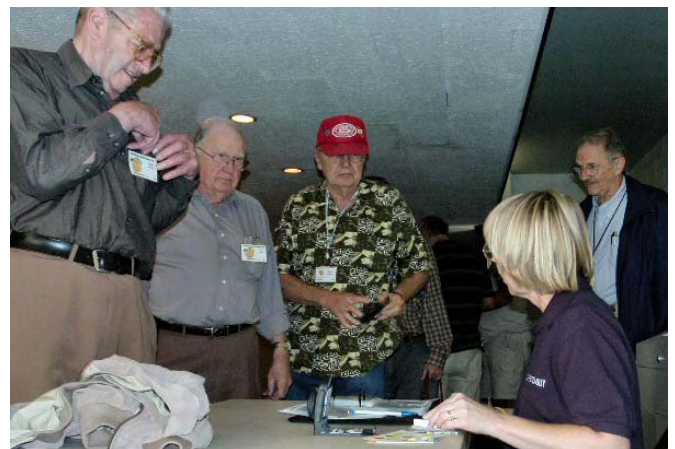


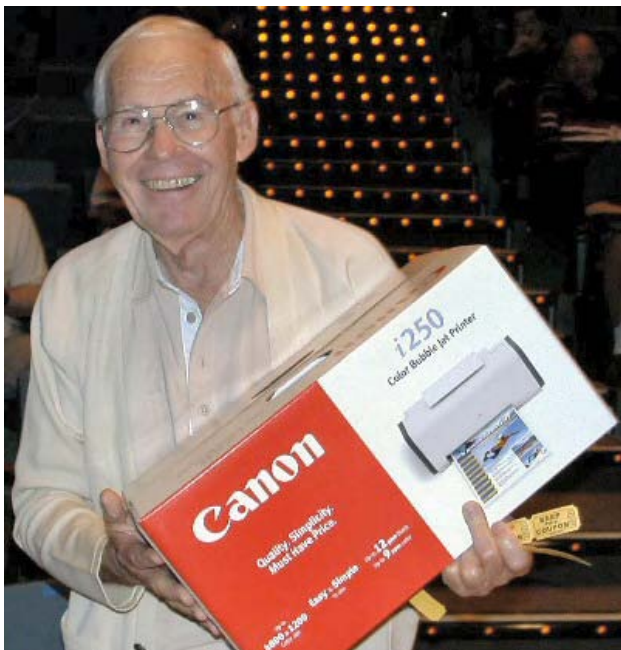
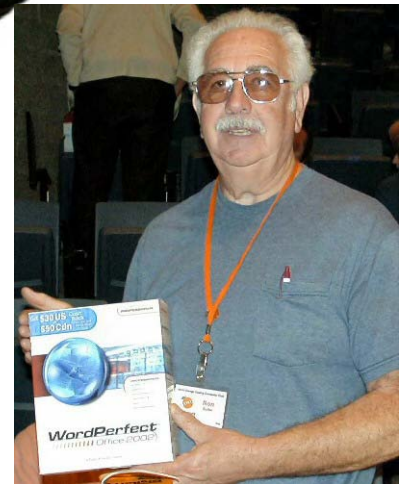
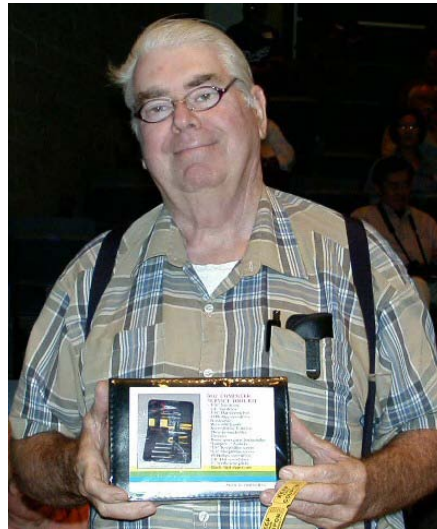
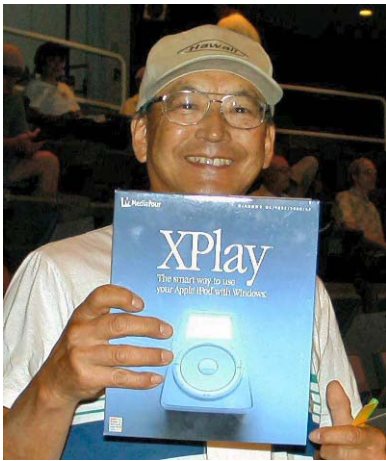
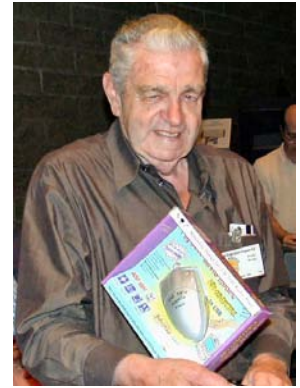
Lee's favorite cameras

One on one with Lee

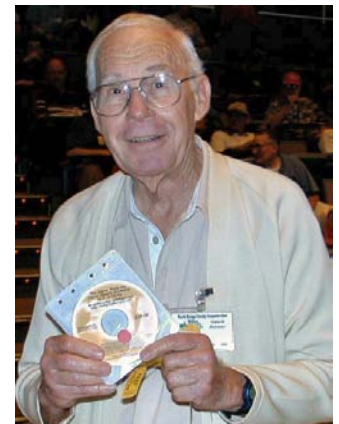


George Margolin and his favorite camera





We had a good raffle this month with a lot of happy winners as exemplified by all the smiling faces. As you can see by the photos, Dale Atwater was a two time winner. In a very generous offer, Dale said that he already had a fine color ink jet printer and was donating the printer back to the club for the November raffle. On behalf of NOCCC, thank you Dale!



Tech News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Shakespeare himself and the actors who performed his plays for the Globe audiences did. <http://www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/homepage.html>

Sun Microsystems and Microsoft next month plan to provide more details on work they are doing to make their products interoperable. The goal is to have an event and to demonstrate interoperability. The settlement ended a bitter legal dispute between the rivals that started in 1997.

A Japanese telecommunications equipment maker has come up with a tricky way to hide audio speakers in houseplants. The Ka-on, which means “flower sound” in Japanese, consists of a magnet and coil at the base of a vase that can be hooked up to a CD player, stereo or television set. When flowers are placed in the vase, the sound vibrations move up through the stems into the petals and leaves, filling the entire room with music. The vases and amplifiers come in several sizes, priced from \$46 to \$460, and the device has an added bonus — the vibrations discourage insects and make the flowers last longer. Gerberas and sunflowers work especially well as speakers.”

Adware company Claria (formerly Gator) has quietly settled litigation brought by Wells Fargo, Quicken Loans and other online businesses, who charged that its pop-up ads violated their trademarks. In recent months, it also has quietly settled with UPS, Hertz, L.L. Bean, Tiger Direct and Six Continents, and still faces a lawsuit from retail florist Teleflora. WhenU.com has a case pending filed by Wells Fargo and Quicken Loans on the same matter and Google currently involved in two cases lawsuits from American Blind and Wallpaper and Geico.

“Wireless sensors have moved out of the labs,” said Intel spokesman Kevin Teixeira. “The technology is being figured out.” the battery-powered, wireless sensors sometimes known as “smart dust” are here, and they’re making their way into our lives. Some take pictures. Others are sensitive thermometers. There are even tiny sensors that can detect gunmetal and tanks. Analysts and researchers predict that networks of these tiny monitors may eventually link refrigerators, printers, car keys and other everyday objects to the Internet, allowing you to keep track of your stuff remotely.

A U.S. Senate committee approved bills intended to fight computer spyware and to protect wireless phone customers from potential privacy problems associated with a wireless phone number directory. the SPY BLOCK Act would prohibit the covert installation of software on computers and prohibit installing software that automatically collects and transmits information about the user without permission.

Stamps.com is in active discussions with the U.S. Postal Service regarding whether or not to continue its personalized postage stamp pilot program. The stamps cost about twice the price of a regular stamp. The market test was supposed to end Sept. 30. Now the U.S. Postal Service will decide whether to continue with the program or not.

Microsoft US is now charging for a Hotmail feature that allows users to access their e-mail using the Outlook and Outlook

Express e-mail clients. Microsoft is making the change because the feature is being abused by senders of spam. Vivisimo, founded by three former Carnegie-Mellon computer scientists, is hoping to challenge Google’s dominance in the search field with a new search service that clusters results into categories to make them easier to sort through. The launch of Clusty comes on the heels of Amazon’s introduction of its A9 search service, which also organizes information as it retrieves it. “Search will look more like the magazine business than the soda market,” predicts Oren Etzioni, a computer scientist at the University of Washington who sits on the Vivisimo board. “The competition has shifted from crawling the Web and returning an answer quickly to adding value to the information that has been retrieved.”

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ■

Cyber Security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

systems, pipelines, water works, and many other critical industries. There was a strong consensus that we need to harden our infrastructure from all forms of attack, including cyber attacks.

This is where my challenge comes in. I challenge the local and national media, along with the Rotary Clubs, Lions, Kiwanis, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, schools, colleges, and other institutions to actively promote National Cyber Security Day. There is information and materials freely available on the official website at www.staysafeonline.info (note the “.info”). A variety of guides are available there for both home and business users, on a variety of topics such as computer security fundamentals, beginner’s guides to computer security, securing broadband and dialup connections, home network security, network security solutions, and computer security for businesses and other organizations. The ubiquitous “Top 10 Security Tips” is listed there, as well as a variety of packaged “Tech Talks”. Among the “Tech Talks” are “The CyberSmart! Curriculum ...

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NOCCC Member
Jim Peugh

Volunteer of the Month November 2004

Interviewed by Ted Littman, NOCCC

This month we salute **Herbert Wong Jr.**, another one of our volunteers who had made significant contributions of his time and expertise. Many of you know Herb from his articles in the Orange Bytes. (He has written a few dozen hardware technology related technical articles and product reviews over the years.) Some of you may have attended his SIG (special interest group) meetings. Others may have chatted with this friendly and helpful “techie” between SIG meetings in front of Irvine Hall. Those of us on the NOCCC Board of Directors know Herb as a regular participant at the monthly meetings who can be counted on no matter how much work he already is doing for the club.

Herb joined NOCCC in 1995. He saw a void in the SIG offerings and started the Hardware Essentials Required for Basic Survival SIG. The motivating philosophy is to explain the topic of the month so that the audience will understand the advantages, disadvantages, common terms, and competing technology. Thus empowered, participants should be able to decipher the deceptive terminology used in advertising, read and understand product reviews, and make an intelligent product purchase.

Herb has been serving as a Director since joining NOCCC. In addition to running the Hardware Essentials SIG, Computer Essentials SIGs, and maintaining the NOCCC web site (<http://www.noccc.org/>), he also is the designated NOCCC SIG coordinator, Calendar Page Editor, posts the monthly Orange Bytes PDF file, prints and posts the monthly schedule at each meeting, helps with setup before and cleanup after each meeting, and does a few other odd jobs as needed.

Born in New York City and raised nearby in New York State, he was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout (and still uses his knotting and rope-lashing skills). In high school, he was a yearbook and newspaper photography editor, chess club member, ran on the track team, and lettered in soccer. In the past, he played softball and was a serious table tennis player. For the past four decades, tennis has been his favorite sport to play.

For the past several years, a small plot of tomato plants has perplexed him and rewarded many hours in the afternoon sun. A half-dozen basil plants that were to be tomato garnish have serendipitously turned into a love of basil pesto.

Herb wrote his first FORTRAN program thirty years ago and has been heavily involve in the IT industry ever since. His first programming job was for IBM 360 mainframe ALC (assembly language) batch programs and terminal programs. A few years of COBOL programming on Hewlett-Packard and Stratus minicomputers followed. Today, Herb is a consultant involved with networks, websites, programming, security, individual PCs,



etc.
He also is a director for the *Southern California IT Professional User Group* (<http://www.socalitpro.org>, formerly the *Orange County NT User Group*). He was the *Orange County Access User Group* (<http://www.oaug.org>) webmaster for a many years and an active member in many local IT user groups.

Herbert can be contacted at: ocug@SingularityTechnology.com

Board Minutes

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Acrobat 6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

other navigating tools (Articles and Bookmarks); 3. modifying PDFs; 4. Reviewing and Commenting; 5. using Form Fields to produce interactive forms that enable users to fill them out on-screen and submit them electronically (but, you need the Pro version to do this); 6. searching PDFs; 7. Document Security; 8. creating Interactive Multimedia Presentations; 9. PDF Creation from within Acrobat as well as in other popular programs (like Word); and 10. aids for visually-impaired viewers of PDF documents. While the authors recommend reading the chapters sequentially, you can skip around and still find the book valuable (Links, Bookmarks, Forms, Indexing, Editing, Modifying, Reviewing, Security, etc.).

“Of most interest to me were the lessons on navigating in a PDF file.....”

In addition to the real-world lessons, the book has two brief, but useful chapters on Acrobat & PDF Resources as well as Troubleshooting the lessons, including on-line support.

Of most interest to me were the lessons on navigating in a PDF file, since we use Acrobat 6 to add links to our Orange Bytes newsletters for the NOCCC Web site versions. Even after previously reading and reviewing another Adobe Acrobat book from PeachPit (see the April 2004 issue of Orange Bytes), I found the H-O-T book added quite a few options on navigating in PDFs that were quite useful.

Adobe Acrobat 6 H-O-T is published by PeachPit Press (<http://www.peachpit.com>) and has an MSRP=\$45. ISBN: 0-321-20299-6. There currently is a 10% discount if you order the book from the publisher. It is widely available at the usual book sellers as well as directly from the Publisher. Walmart (<http://www.walmart.com>) sells it for \$28.34 plus S&H.

While the book is good for beginners, more advanced users will find some significant omissions such as reducing PDF file size (using the PDF Optimizer), pre-press considerations, printing, and the use of 3rd-party plug-ins. For these, PeachPit has published another \$45 book: Real World Adobe Acrobat 6 Pro and Standard which is authored by Christopher Smith, Mohamad Tawil, and Anita Dennis (ISBN: 0-321-19440-3). But, this is the subject of another review! ■

Products

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

enough for even the most inexperienced computerist, for creating your ideal machine. Five different classes of machines are covered with full descriptions of all items and options. From O'Reilly. 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.

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, 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.

The Official Samba-3 How To and Reference Guide – This book is part of Bruce Perens' “Open Source” series. Authored by John Terpstra & Jelmer Vernooij, this is the practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Samba-3. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

We the media – This hard-cover book is authored by nationally known columnist and blogger Dan Gillmor of the San Jose Mercury Press. It discusses how modern communications technology and the Internet are transforming journalism. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

Succeeding with Open Source – This book, authored by Bernard Golden and published by Addison-Wesley, is the first how-to book on the subject based on a product's characteristics such as quality, support, & longevity. MSRP=\$40.

Open Source Licensing – Software Freedom & Intellectual Property Law – This is a complete guide to the law of open source for developers, managers, & lawyers; authored by attorney Lawrence Rosen, the book is published by Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

Open Source Security Tools – A Practical Guide to Security Applications – This book/CD is a practical hands-on introduction to the subject by Tony Howlett from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

The Design & Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System – This hard-cover book by Kirk McKusick & George Neville-Neil from Addison-Wesley is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and authoritative technical information on the internal structure of this open source operating system. MSRP=\$60.

High-Tech Crimes Revealed – Being on the inside of several high-tech busts has given author Steven Branigan the ability to make this book exciting reading for those interested in real cases. Published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$30.

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

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor (714) 779-1936
email: tedlit@adelphia.net or reviews@noccc.org ■



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:

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.

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 & mid-size 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.

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. MSRP=\$60.

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 Incline 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.

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.

Building the Perfect PC – This book by Robert Bruce & Barbara Thompson delivers end-to-end instructions, simple

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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.

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

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

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC



October's meeting day was dubbed 'Digital Photo Day.' At the Main Meeting, Lee Otsubo -- THE DIGITAL PHOTO GUY -- gave us a very informative presentation. It both satisfied our experienced digital camera users and taught important concepts to our newbies.

As President Cathy Margolin opened the meeting, she announced that MICROSOFT will be joining us in December to present their latest products -- a meeting not to be missed!

She made another Windows XP Service Pack 2 announcement. Many people have had system problems while or after installing it (partly because they may have been unaware of several changes it makes to the operating system). A large number of people are having trouble because of adware/spyware that they didn't know was on their machine. Be sure you run Ad-Aware SE Personal edition, and/or SpyBot Search and Destroy before installing SP2. The bottom line is -- backup all your data BEFORE installing SP2, in case you run into problems.

She also mentioned that we might soon have more NOCCC T-shirts for purchase. We are checking out vendors to produce them, especially www.zazzle.com.

Cathy introduced Lee Otsubo. The Digital Photo Guy came up from San Diego to present for us. He does a great deal to teach and share information about digital photography. In fact, he has a website (www.thedigitalphotoguy.com) where he provides information and picture samples -- and sells excellent

training CDs on digital photography. The site also provides information on his many seminars. His passion at the moment is photographing the Tour de France and other cycling events.

Lee started out with some fun, as he gave away one of his training CDs. There were three from which to choose. One provides all the information he presents in his seminars (of which today's presentation was an abbreviated version). Another provides "newbies" (people new to the technology) with basic instructions to perform camera functions. The third provides all the shareware programs Lee recommends. Lee decided to give away the free CD to a person who had a birthday closest to the meeting date. It turned out that Alan Pearlman's birthday was the day before the meeting (Oct. 2), so he had the chance to pick one of these great CDs for free.

Lee then explained the goals of his presentation, as follows: 1) How to get the most out of your digital camera -- or -- What to look for when buying a digital camera; 2) Ways to share and display photos.

He first pointed out that digital cameras are not a hobby for the casual picture taker. They take decent investments in time, to learn how to use them -- and money, not just for the camera itself but also for memory cards, software, printers and other items.

What should you look for when buying a digital camera? An important concept to be aware of is the MEGAPIXEL. This is a measurement of digital cameras usually emphasized in the stores -- but definitely not the only consideration when buying them. The number of Megapixels is a measure of a camera's ability to capture details, i.e., its resolution. Pixels are tiny points, or dots, that together make up a picture (like on your PC's monitor screen). The megapixel is a measurement of millions (mega) of pixels.

According to Lee, 2 megapixels is actually just fine for the average snapshot picture taker. He recommended looking for cameras with between 2 and 6 megapixels. For people who just want

small prints -- 4x6" and 5x7" -- 2 or 3 megapixels are just fine. For mid-sized prints -- 5x7" and 8x10" -- he suggested 4 to 5 megapixels. 6+ megapixels are good for large prints, like posters.

There is a setting on most cameras for the number of megapixels to use per shot. The higher it is, the better quality and resolution you'll get per picture -- but more memory will also be consumed by each picture. Lee recommended just putting this setting to its highest value and planning your memory usage wisely.

Besides the number of megapixels, there are 6 main considerations for choosing a digital camera. They are similar to those for buying a laptop -- the processor, memory, image input (lens), displayed output, power system and printing options.

The Charge Coupled Device (CCD), or on many new cameras the CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) -- is a camera's image capturing device.

These are equivalent to the film in a camera but they can be reused thousands upon thousands of times. The CPU in the camera then processes the images creating the pixels on photographs and compresses photo data into JPEG or other file formats.

The number of megapixels is one main factor when considering the CCD. Although popular assumption is that the bigger number of megapixels, the better the resolution, the reality is that bigger is not always better. There is a microscopic little sensor for each pixel on the CCD. When manufacturers try to cram more megapixels into the same CCD space, something has to be sacrificed. Unfortunately, that's often the QUALITY of each pixel. The more expensive cameras use a larger CCD for the higher megapixel count.

Another CCD factor to consider is the CYCLE TIME. This is the delay a camera requires between shots to charge and fire its picture-taking mechanism after you press the button. If you are interested in taking several quick, successive shots in a row, cycle time is definitely going to be important for you

to consider if you have an interest in fast moving sports photography..

Some cameras offer an exciting feature called Movie Mode, which allows a quick string of shots with practically no cycle time. However, the resolution is REDUCED per shot, so it's not as marvelous as it sounds. Another decent, common feature is Burst, Continuous or Sequence Mode. This allows a camera to take several shots at once, as all shots are thrown into a frame buffer and not processed until the burst is finished. However, you are limited by the frame buffer size and you should note how many photos it can hold. For example, if it only has a capacity for five shots, then your sixth will OVERWRITE the first one in the buffer. You have to watch how many pictures you take at a time in this mode.

Memory

Digital cameras hold your photos in FLASH MEMORY CARDS. Rolls of film are a thing of the past for digital camera buffs. You can invest in a single huge flash memory card to hold an incredible number of pictures for your journeys. However, Lee recommended against that because, like floppy disks, flash cards can get corrupted. He suggested buying 2 to 4 moderate-sized memory cards. This way, if one gets corrupted on a trip, you'll have others available to use. (You might also be able to get more memory for your dollar that way.)

For the inevitable moment when one of your flash cards gets corrupted, there are several software products out there for recovering your pictures. Lee recommended "Photo Rescue." It is shareware, not freeware, so you do have to pay for it -- but it's well worth the cost.

Displayed Output.

Lee suggested getting a USB digital camera. Some use a proprietary cable and software for interfacing with your computer, but most are standard. Installation is usually easy and provides a great deal of flexibility. You can connect and disconnect your camera on the fly with this technology; your PC doesn't have to reboot to recognize it.

The software for displaying pictures

that comes with cameras usually leaves much to be desired. Lee recommended buying a USB CARD READER with your camera. This is for flash cards like disk drives are for floppy disks and allow you to transfer the pictures to the hard disk. Card readers do not need to be expensive and you do not need a fancy one to transfer your pictures. However, different readers can work with different memory card formats. Lee said to just get a UNIVERSAL card reader and you'll be set to read most types of memory cards you'll ever use.

The other output consideration is whether to buy a camera with an LCD display. There are both pros and cons to using LCDs. On the plus side, they are fun to use and provide immediate feedback so you can see exactly what your photo looks like. They are also helpful in getting that perfect shot in macro, or close-up mode. On the minus side, they are SERIOUS power hogs and they can't display subtle differences between shots.

Power System

Like many electronic items, digital cameras use one of three types of rechargeable batteries -- Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) or Nickel Metal-Hydrate (Ni-MH) or Ni-Cad. Li-Ion provides excellent battery life, but it's a proprietary technology -- which basically means it's expensive. Ni-MH is available in standard battery sizes and provides excellent cost/performance ratio. You don't have much of a choice; you use the type for which your camera was designed. However, if all other considerations were equal and you were choosing between two cameras based on battery type, Ni-MH AA size is less expensive and provides great battery life. In addition, in an emergency you can use standard Alkaline AA batteries

Lee pointed out an important warning -- that should be common sense. DO NOT carry your camera battery around loosely, like in your pocket. You can run the risk of shorting it out and draining its life needlessly. WORSE -- if rapidly discharged they can cause a serious burn! Batteries should be kept either inside the camera or in specified

containers.

Printing options.

There are 4 critical components to printing great photos -- 1) A good photo printer, 2) COMPATIBLE photo paper, 3) High-quality images from your camera, and 4) Well-written, intelligent software.

Photo printer: Lee said that the best is a 6-color photo printer from the top three manufacturers -- Canon, Epson or HP. Photo paper: Concentrate heavily on this because it makes a SERIOUS difference in your printed output. In fact, Lee suggested budgeting for higher-quality paper rather than a higher-quality printer, if you had to make a choice.

High-quality images: We'd already discussed getting this by choosing the right camera and learning how to properly use it. Software: A good printing program provides simple, easy-to-use controls. Lee provides or recommends several on his information CDs.

Besides printing them, there are also several other ways to share and distribute photos. You can burn them on CDs (or DVDs), send them via e-mail, post them on the Internet and display them for family and friends.

Why burn pictures to CD? Besides rolls of film and negatives are virtually a thing of the past because of the popularity and success of digital photos. Digital files typically reside in only two places -- your flash memory cards and hard drives. Just like data files, picture files need to be backed up, archived, organized and named appropriately. After all, flash cards are meant to be re-used and hard drives will fail.

Burning picture files to CD allows you to both back them up and remove them from hard drives. Digital photos are also like rabbits -- they multiply. CDs can help you track and organize them. However, the camera tends to give them enigmatic filenames -- make sure to give them meaningful names before burning them.

When preparing photo files for e-mailing or posting on the Web, it's important to compress them down to manageable sizes. "Native mode"

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MAC SIG

By C. Lemire, MA, NOCCC

Carla got her new iMac G5 but couldn't be at the meeting due to work obligations. Fortunately, MacWorld Magazine has a wonderful write-up I will summarize drastically herein. Rene, Betty, Bob, and I shared Q & As about system maintenance in OS X, same old same old ;-).

Let us get to the nifty info - The iMac G5 has changed the physical shape of the iMac yet again. Compared to the G4, the improvements are such as growing from 1.25 to 1.8GHz, from 333 to 400MHz with a 2G max., from 167 to 600 MHz frontside BUS, from parallel to serial ATA, from 40.1 to 25.2 lbs., from analog-only to analog and digital multichannel output, and from \$2,199 to \$1,899 top price. CDs and DVDs load into a slot along the top right edge. The half-dome base is gone entirely, absorbed into the back of the monitor itself. The fully swiveling arm has been reduced to up-down tilting only, in the form of a stiffened L-arm which can be detached for wall mounting. Ports are analog audio input, analog or optical-digital audio output, mini-VGA, 3 USB 2.0, 2 Firewire 400, a 56K V.92 modem, and lastly a 10/100 Base-T ethernet.

The big questions come from the redesigned compactness. COOLING - the G5 throws off tons of heat so there are 3 cooling zones one over each of the hot spots and they operate only as fast as needed keeping noise to 25 dB. HARD DRIVE - the Serial ATA (SATA) can configure to 250 GB using smaller connectors and thinner cables with higher bandwidth for data throughput. RAM - slots are angled so standard RAM can be used, though only ships with 256 MB so make sure to put more in ASAP. SPEAKERS - are built in with a 12 Watt digital amplifier, point downward to reflect off the desktop surface. PROCESSOR - 64 bit with 2 FPUs but still a single. Power Macs all have dual-G5s standard. GRAPHICS - chip on motherboard, requires replacing entire

midplane assembly to upgrade.

AIRPORT/BLUETOOTH WIRELESS - antennas included, \$79 for optional AP Extreme card easy to add, \$50 for optional Bluetooth module.

OPTICAL DRIVE - full size combo or superdrive, DVD burn max 4x.

From the new iMac to the latest open source apps for it, here are some great and often cheap or free helper apps. CocoaBooklet 1.2 - find.macworld.com/0057; free! Allows PDF files to be repaginated (imposition) into booklets like greeting cards.

NoteTaker 2003 1.8 - www.aquaminds.com; \$70. Stores audio, images, URLs and others into task-manageable spiral notebook format with a summary view, toolbar, and tabs.

Snapz Pro X 2.0 - Ambrosia Software; \$20/\$29/\$69. Screenshot all the screen, objects, selected areas and movies! Pacifist 1.6 - CharlesSoft, \$20. Preview installations and select only what you want. Also allows single installs from OS X install disk!

Peripheral Vision 1.6 - Granted Software; \$7. Monitors FireWire, USB, Bluetooth, and network connects, alerts to changes, can launch an app or run AppleScript or Unix script.

iSeek 1.0 - Ambrosia Software, \$15. For power-websearching from w/in any app. Better than Searchling.

iAddressX 3.2 - www.mibasoft.dk; \$8. Menubar access, categorize, search a contact, cross-reference iChat, use email, dial number, all in a few clicks!

Mail.appetizer 1.0 - www.bronsonbeta.com; free. Plug-in identifies new mail and makes a Mail pop-up window.

JunkMatcher 1.19 - find.macworld.com/0074; free. Added protection if built-in filter isn't enough.

R-Name 3 - find.macworld.com/0071; free. Rename those IMG files even in folder systems.

Whew! There are many more programs listed in this month's MacWorld. Come by 221 Wilkinson Hall at 1115 am next NOCCC Sunday to learn more. -)

Contact anytime C. Lemire 714-292-9772 clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com
home.socal.rr.com/bobkrish ■

New Technology SIG

By Cathy Margolin, NOCCC

As part of the Digital Photo Day, the New Technology SIG held a Hands-On Digital Camera session where everyone was asked to bring their camera and manual to learn how to use their camera and all of its options. We had George Margolin give an overview talk on some of the features you might want to use on your camera, such as macro setting, backlight setting, exposure, telephoto, depth of field, resolution setting (high, medium or low). George also went into how to pull pictures off your camera by using a card reader hooked to the USB port. They were currently selling the Inland USB 2.0 multi-card reader at Fry's for about \$10. There will be a Card Reader in the member raffle for November, I heard. The meeting then broke up into small groups lead by George Margolin, Cathy Margolin, Jim Sanders, Jim Morrison, and Herb Wong, where over 40 people who had brought their cameras asked questions about how to use features or about the camera itself. If the camera is dead, and no amount of juggling and power will get it to revive, it is either time for a new one or time to take it to get it repaired. It is usually worth a call or email to the Camera manufacture to find out how much it costs to repair, then price new cameras, and make your decision.

I think everyone got at least some of their questions answered between the 5 leaders and really enjoyed it. It was so successful, we will probably consider it again for January (for those Christmas presents - to ourselves, of course).

For November, Gene Barlow, of User Group Relations, will tell us about Hard Drive Tips and Tricks. ■

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Market Review Each meeting we start with a review of the market and technical indicators used to help explain any changes in its status, trend, patterns and influencing factors for changes – past and future. Computer generated charts plot the index of the Dow, S&P500, and NASDAQ and are key tools for this analysis. Investors should be using such charts regularly to know the condition of the market in making trading decisions. These charts are available from popular software packages such as TC2000 and MetaStock, or from websites such as StockCharts.com or BigCharts.com (for free).

This month we saw a continuation of the downtrend that began in March, still in a trading range of over 500 points for the Dow. That's not very good news, but there is some improvement, with indexes crossing above their 200 day MA. The key to watch for is a breakout above the channel top, which maybe near for the S&P500 and NASDAQ. Until then, investing new money in the market has a lot of downside risk.

Product Demonstrations QuotesPlus.com is a data service for end-of-day data for stocks, commodities, indexes, and mutual funds. One of its features is the screening and ranking program, StockPicker Pro that is furnished with the service. A demo of this program showed some of the screens that were available to identify hot stocks, sectors and industry groups, based on technical and fundamental data. StockPicker is helpful for doing top-down analysis to find where performance is good, and creating lists of individual stocks or funds to follow-up in more detailed analysis programs. There are many fea-

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PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders

Well, in some respects this month's SIG was a bit of a disappointment to me. I had advertised that the PC Q&A SIG would be devoted to answering questions about digital cameras that were not answered in the preceding New Technology SIG. As I am sure you know, the features of digital cameras range from fairly simple to very complex. Facing an hour and a half of questions, I thought I would avoid getting too much egg on my face by spending several hours Saturday evening studying features of digital cameras. I figured that by doing a bit of last minute cramming, I could avoid giving a wrong answer, or worse, having someone ask about a feature that I didn't know existed.

I opened the SIG with the usual house-keeping stuff including a pitch for my free computer class. I then got down to the business of the day and asked the 20+ people in attendance, "Who has a question about digital cameras?"

Imagine my chagrin when I was met with this deafening silence. After all that studying, and with no fallback plan, I have to get an audience of digital camera know-it-alls.

"What to do with the photo after you get it in your computer" was the topic that we ended up covering. The two areas that we spent the most time on were viewing and modifying images. The two pieces of software that I recommend are Irfanview, the Freeware viewer, and Paint Shop Pro 8 or 9 for manipulating your images. Go to <http://www.irfanview.com> to download your free copy of a very versatile, fast loading viewer, with many features. Irfanview has a long list of the many image formats that it knows how to deal with. <http://www.jasc.com> is where you can get your usergroup discount on a purchase of this fine program. It has been called the poor man's Photo Shop and at 10% of the cost with 90%+ of the capabilities of Photo Shop, very well deserved. ■

Cyber Security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

an Owner's Manual for children's safe, responsible and effective use of technology", Security Fundamentals, and "Protect Your Computer, Protect Your Country's Cyber-Infrastructure". There is also a section linked on the main page that contains teaching materials for grades K through 12, which can be utilized by parents as well as schools.

Please do not let another Cyber Security Day pass without appropriate action, as the threats are very real and frightening. Utilize the resources on the website, as well as other local resources. Speakers may be available from local computer clubs (www.apcug.net), community or technical colleges, universities, law enforcement agencies, and other resources. I know from first hand experience that media, groups and organizations hunger for programs of vital interest and current content. Individuals need secure computers that will not be hijacked by terrorists for nefarious "macro" purposes, or by "micro" terrorists or crackers planting viruses or zombies on our computers to steal our passwords, or drain us financially by committing identity theft. Professional associations, including medical and legal groups, need to let their members know how to secure their sensitive personal data and records.

OK folks, for the third consecutive year I have pleaded with you to take advantage of the computer security benefits promoted by National Cyber Security Day, and its website at www.staysafeonline.info. I have secured my computer to the best of my ability, now the ball is in your court. Security is everybody's business.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ■

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	joem@pvateplaamerica.com	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 Imaging	Irvine Hall		2:30	Jim Morrison	jimless@adelphia.net	714-546-6677
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	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to				Herbert Wong, Jr.	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264

Benefits

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<http://www.globalscape.com/cuteftp/homevspro.asp>

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

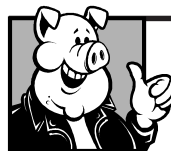
VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (<http://www.goldenbow.com>). Download a free 30 day trial to see how fast it will defragment your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the \$30 user group discount or \$10 off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

Klassic Specialties – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, <http://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 Help line numbers are published in the printed version of the Bytes which is mailed to the membership.

FREE AD SPACE

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

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



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

Main Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

resolution for digital pictures is usually 1600x1200. Most people these days set their monitors to 1024x768. They're usually satisfied with photos resized to 800x600 resolution. Lee suggested compressing them and/or resizing them to about 50,000 bytes for e-mailing and posting. Good compression programs will have batch capabilities so you don't have to compress one picture at a time.

There are many options for displaying digital photos for family and friends (when not using a PC). For example, you can use your A/V (Audio/Video) cable (provided with most digital cameras) to connect your camera to a TV or VCR for displaying and if desired, taping your photos. You can also burn a picture CD in VCD (Video CD) format, for displaying your pictures like a slideshow with a DVD player.

A member asked about zoom options. There are two kinds of zoom -- optical and digital. Optical is the "real" type of zoom, where the camera is actually providing you a closer view of the subject. Digital zoom is merely a trick, where the camera blows up the pixels on part of a picture to give you the impression that you're homing in on that portion. This just ruins picture quality. Lee advised always using optical zoom and just turning off digital zoom.

As the Main Meeting period was wrapping up, Lee mentioned that he was selling his three CDs in bundle at an NOCCC discount. They cost \$30.00 each on the website. At the meeting, he was selling two for \$45.00 and all three for \$70.00.

We had a great raffle in which copies of Lee's CDs were given away -- as well as a Canon I250 color printer, an optical mouse and other items. Members wearing their badges had a special raffle for a WordPerfect 2002 office suite.

After a small break, Lee hung around during the Digital Imaging SIG timeframe to show us a sample set of photos he had taken -- and to answer questions. The photos were of people and places he took all over the world, including beautiful shots of the sea, plants in various gardens and hill country. He also showed us cycling shots from the Tour de France and pictures of various objects, like buildings, the Eiffel Tower and a tall Christmas tree. (Some of these can be seen on his website at www.thedigitalphotoguy.com.) All the pictures demonstrated impressive detail and dazzling color.

He asked us to guess how many megapixels were used to take each picture. Of course, with all the pictures being displayed from the same projector and having about the same size, it was impossible to tell that difference, especially to untrained eyes. However, as some of the photos were taken with 2 megapixels and others with 6, Lee proved his point that 2 and 3 megapixel cameras can take perfectly good pictures for the average consumer.

As Lee was going through the slideshow, he remembered how helpful it was to carry around plastic baggies through his journeys. He said that with digital cameras, you often have to carry around several components like memory cards. He recommended taking along several baggies for this purpose.

A member asked if he had done any preparation or processing

of the photos he was displaying. He said that he had de-noised them and used a sharpening tool on them. Noise almost always shows up as weird colors on a picture. There are many de-noising programs available. Lee recommended Neat Image. Many people also use Noise Ninja.

Next Meeting -- Gene Barlow with a load of new and interesting products to demonstrate as well as his great morning meeting on preserving and storing information on your hard drives. And he ALWAYS has good raffle prizes. ■

CIA SIG

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tures that StockPicker Pro has that are comparable to those in TC2000. Users of MetaStock or AmiBroker might consider the approach of QuotesPlus and StockPicker Pro as a data supplier and pre-processor, in lieu of Reuters or TC2000.

AmiBroker was also demonstrated as the newest technical analysis program that can improve analysis and backtesting of various systems. AmiBroker is an application that can make use of many different data bases, e.g. MetaStock, FastTrack, QuotesPlus, TC2000, or manage its own database using free or subscription downloads (such as Yahoo Financial). The program has been around for a few years and is still maturing as new capabilities are being incorporated with frequent updates and revisions. Currently, AmiBroker is not a canned application that has x commands and y features that you can learn in n weeks. I purchased the program a year ago, slowly became familiar with its charting and data management capabilities. More recently I've become sold on it because of its analysis and backtesting capabilities that are limited only by one's programming abilities. AmiBroker is capable of simulating trading strategies for futures, commodities, stocks, bonds and mutual funds, ranging from intra day futures to daily, weekly or monthly studies for stocks, funds and ETFs, including portfolio level evaluations. This is a tool that can be used by a FastTrack or TC2000 user to add capabilities in analyzing systems. There are a lot of users on the web who have written codes and adapted to AmiBroker, which makes AmiBroker a great tool for trying out all these ideas from many sources and leveraging them to meet your goals. The complexity may be too much for many investors who only want a charting package. But for those interested in a powerful tool for trading systems development, backtesting and analysis -- AmiBroker is a recommend choice. In these areas, AmiBroker appears to be stronger than MetaStock and much less cost.

Next month we will continue with some of the capabilities mastered using AmiBroker. We will begin membership discussions of individual, regular investing activities, and some of the things each have learned, and where more help is needed, and see what expertise is available to help each other. ■

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
North Orange County Computer Club
P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857
(714) 998-8080

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Production—Camera-ready copy of this issue of *Orange Bytes* was produced with Adobe PageMaker 7.0

Type set with True Type: Times New Roman, Bauhaus 93, Arial and Humanist 521BT fonts

Printed by

**Windsor Enterprises
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Garden Grove, CA 92842

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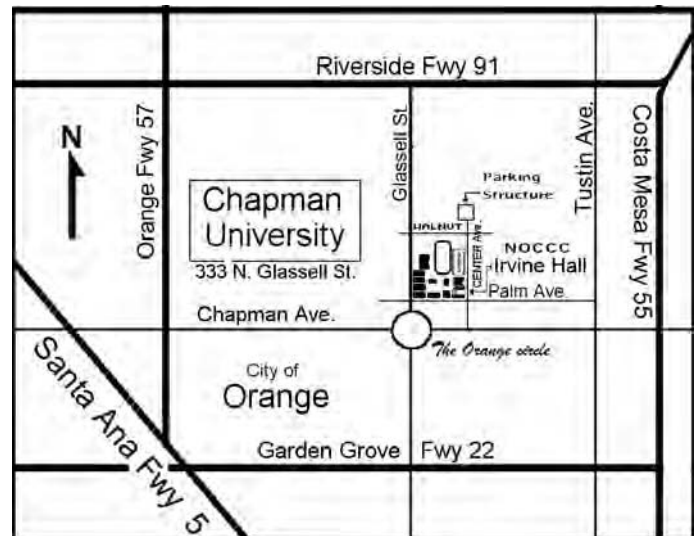
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- **The NOCCC HelpLine.** Some 20 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist with your problems, and are as close as your telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine.** Our Award Winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address 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 newsletter.
- **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 committee, and more.

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

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

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

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Desk on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in!



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