Orange Bytes

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

Happy New Year

2005 starts off with a repeat of the October Digital Camera help session at the New Technology SIG, the Ink Dot Lady canceled her Main Meeting presentation at the last minute so that will be pot luck. Details on page 4 .

NOCCC Meetings - January 9 (Second Sunday)

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*
Bring your in own digital camera for help on its use.
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Linux (Intermediate) .... *Wilkinson 111*

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

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

Office suites applications
PC Q & A - Jim Sanders - .... *Irvine Hall*
Most Q's A'd, some problems solved, assorted demos done
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*
The Ink Dot Lady on printers

2:30 p.m.
Assistive Technology - .... *Science 306*
Learn how your computer can help you live better
Digital Imaging - .... *Irvine Hall*
To be announced
Genealogy .... *Science 111*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
Using CD/DVD software (Ahead Nero)
OS/2 News and Installation .... *Science 203*

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

Meeting Dates
Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3

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Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

Founded April 1976
North Orange County Computer Club

"Friends Helping Friends"

ORANGE BYTES STAFF

President's Message

By Cathy Margolin

By the time you read this , you will have opened and played with all your new technology toys, and decided you need assistance! That is what NOCCC is for- Friends helping Friends! Bring your questions to the January meeting!

Everyone had a great time at the NOCCC Volunteer party in December with lots of prizes including a wireless keyboard and mouse won by our Treasurer, Elise Edgell.

I have been spending tons of time cleaning off very nasty spyware from quite a few PC's. Some of them take over your browser and others use your modem and phone to dial toll numbers for bad purposes. We used to think that keeping our anti-virus updated, and updating Windows would keep us safe. This is no longer the case. Spyware is rampant. In a Consumer Reports study, 36 percent of U.S. home computers showed signs of being infected with spyware and only 41 percent of surveyed households said they actively try to prevent it. Try running multiple spyware checkers very often, such as free Ad-Aware, Spybot Search and Destroy, and SpySweeper are just a few. The first thing I tell people to do, if their computer starts running slow, is to use the free HouseCall virus checker at http://www.antivirus.com, then Ad-Aware and Spybot. There are even starting to be cases of jpg viruses and cell phone viruses. One of the newspapers commented that the hackers and spyware writers were targeting the person with the new computer under the tree. Don't let it be you! Tell your friends also. Come to the PC Question and Answer SIG at 11:15 and learn how to protect yourself!

On a happier note, more people are using the USB Flash drives that are the size of your thumb. I gave two to friends in a business, and they could not get over that the little flash drive held the equivalent of 256 floppies, and are so easy to use. Prices of computers stayed reasonable. Many played the Dell Elf game to get discounts on their computer purchases.

What does January and the New Year bring to New Technology? Many of us will be checking out the latest and greatest new toys at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and will tell you the what is hot at the February meeting. One trend was that the hottest gift this year was the digital camera, which outpaced DVD players during the holidays. Many have been upgrading and the lower prices have offered more cameras with more features for the consumer to choose from.

Our January meeting will be The Ink Dot lady, Cynthia Hunter, who will talk on Printer Refills, Resetting and Repairs, the latest information the major printer manufactures don't want you to know. She will go over the most common things that cause a printer to skip, clog and break down.

Our New Technology will be a hands on Camera Question session, just like the October Digital meeting.

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!

Special till January 15, 2005 only!

Prentice Hall and Addison-Wesley Books

To close out 2004 and kick off the new year, you can receive a 35% discount off any Addison-Wesley or Prentice Hall PTR books-- when purchased direct from their websites through Jan. 15, 2005. Please use the below promotion links which will provide you with the special discount coupon code needed at check-out.

For discount off Prentice Hall PTR books: http://www.phptr.com/promotion/1945

For discount off Addison-Wesley books: http://www.awprofessional.com/promotion/1942a

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.

December Board Meeting Minutes

NOCCC

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

JANUARY 9TH MEETING PREVIEW

NEW TECHNOLOGIES - at 9:30AM we will be having a repeat of the October Digital Camera help session where you bring in your camera (and <u>everything</u> that came with it, manual, memory, batteries, battery charger, cables, CD-ROMs), we try to help you with usage problems, tips, tricks, and procedures along with advice that is worth what you are paying for it.

MAIN MEETING **1:00PM, Irvine Hall** - The Ink Dot lady, Cynthia Hunter, canceled her scheduled appearance just as the Bytes was going to press. We are trying to find a replacement speaker, but the short notice will make that difficult. We will come up with an entertaining and/or educational presentation for the Main Meeting.

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG - 2:30PM with Jim Morrison, topic to be announced.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SIG - 2:30PM This new SIG, with Leader Chuck Fete and Elise Edgell will be exploring the various ways that computer and related technology can assist people with hearing difficulties.

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will feature Microsoft PictureIt and Norton GoBack 4.0

The **Member-only prize** (<u>requires wearing badge to get a free ticket</u>) one year subscription to Smart Computing Magazine

Consignment Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.
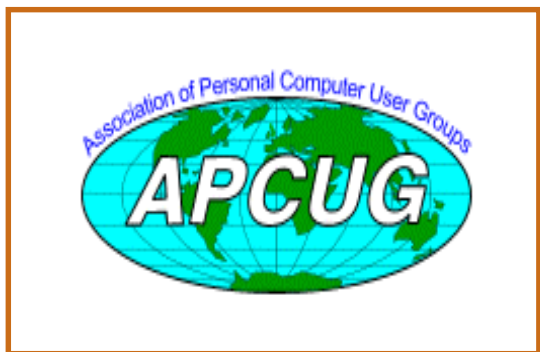
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Linux? Check It Out At The So Cal Linux Expo!

By Orv Beach

If the recent publicity about more security holes in Internet Explorer, and Windows in general have you nervous about your on-line computing, there's hope. Maybe Linux is for you.

Are you interested in Linux, but not sure where to start? Stat at The So Cal Linux Expo! The Expo will have booths manned by various Linux User Groups, all eager to show you something cool about Linux. There will be presentations on various facets of Linux and Open Source Applications. Some of the presentations will be on beginner topics, for the new or prospective Linux user.

The Expo (SCALE 3x) has been expanded to two days. It will be held February 12th and 13th, 2005, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. As a special incentive to Windows users, we've arranged for a discount for you. Order your ticket on line at http//www.socallinuxexpo.org, and use discount code PCUG for a 50% discount on a full-entry pass. Don't delay, though; admission prices go up January 1st!

Come and share in the excitement! ∎

Next Generation DVD: The New Format War

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC
teveringham@acm.org

Many of you already have a DVD burner in your computer. Yet at 4.7 GB it still seems small when trying to backup hard drives of 100 GB or larger. Even with the new dual layer DVD burners this is still a problem. Now, Sony and JVC have video cameras in the new HDV format. Corporate, governmental, educational, even high-level amateur videographers will be able to produce high definition videos. Some predict that in less than five years HDV cameras will replace standard definition DV cameras at the consumer level. Yet current standard DVD formats can only have half an hour of high definition video put on them. The upcoming blue laser DVD formats may be the answer to these issues. However, there are forces that are expected to provide some chaos and confusion in their introduction, which will include another format war.

There are some blue laser DVD type of recording devices already on the market, but like DVD-RAM that came early in the DVD product life cycle, they are targeted toward a narrow market and wide use is not to be expected. There are three different viable blue laser DVD formats proposed, but all will use disks that are the same diameter as standard DVDs. The first is HD-DVD. This is from the DVD Forum, the same people that brought you the DVD. The storage space on this is up to 20 GB single layer and 40 GB dual layer (15 GB & 30 GB for ROM and recordable, 20 GB & 40 GB for re-writable). Some companies were not satisfied with what was going on within the DVD Forum in regards to HD-DVD. This group was lead by Sony, which came up with the Blu-ray Disc. The storage space on it is up to 25 GB single layer and 50 GB dual layer, with the possibility of increasing the number of layers to as many as eight later. Both HD-DVD and Blu-ray Disc players will be able to play standard DVDs and CDs. Both formats will at least use the video codecs MPEG-2 Hi-Def/Standard-Def, MPEG-4 AVC High Profile, and Windows Media 9. They will also have native multitrack surround sound to be used in 5.1 sound systems or higher. There is also a standard being used in mainland China called EVD. It was developed as an alternative to DVD so the Chinese would not have to pay the DVD licensing fees and to keep local control of the technology. It is currently used in China and has made its way to some surrounding countries. The plan is to extend the standard to incorporate blue laser and other more up to date technologies making it comparable to the other two viable competing high definition DVD formats. The winner should be either HD-DVD or Blu-ray Disc. The blue laser EVD is only expected to be a widely used format in Asia. Blu-ray has more hardware manufacturers' backing (Sony, Dell, Hewlett Packard, LG, Panasonic, Pioneer, Philips, Sharp, Samsung, & others) than HD-DVD (Toshiba, NEC, Sanyo, and others). Both have lined up Hollywood studios amounting to about half of the current DVD movie sales (HD-DVD: Universal, Paramount, Warner Brothers, & New Line Cinema. Blue-ray: Sony, Twentieth Century Fox, & Disney). Right now Blu-ray Disc is considered to have a slight competitive edge over HD-DVD, but it could go either way in the expected long drawn out fight like there was between VHS and Betamax videotape formats.

For the price to come down on high definition DVD players and writable/rewritable drives to the consumer and general office use levels there first needs to be a perception by the manufacturers that there will be a high demand for these products (mass production begets low

costs). Last time it was the release of major Hollywood movies on the DVD format that caused this demand, so the manufacturers are thinking it will be the same this time. This allows the Hollywood studios to have great influence over the next generation DVD formats. The movie standards for both HD-DVD and Blue Ray Disc are finalized. However, the standards for interactivity on the disk and Internet/Web are not expected to be finalized until early 2006, which means they won't be included in players until late 2006. Some of the Hollywood studios have expressed that they do not want players out there that will not have the full functionally that they would wish. This is a problem of them not want to make decisions on a mixed installed base and requiring first adopters to within 2 years have to replace their player to get full functionally of the format. This also allows them more time to work on their new 128 bit encrypted disk copying protection/digital rights management system called Advanced Access Control System (AACS). However, many of both the HD-DVD and Blu-ray manufactures have announced they plan to release players by late 2005. Hewlett Packard says they want start including Blu-ray writable drives in their desktop computers also starting in late 2005 and notebooks in 2006. Also Sony's Playstation 3 to come out in 2006 will be able to use Blu-ray discs. However, there is a question about how many movies will be released in the formats when the players come out, the lack of which could delay the launch of the players. Yet it is likely the competition between HD-DVD and Blue-ray will mean the players will launch on schedule anyway.

The proposed next generation DVDs will have 4-5 times the storage capacity of current standard DVDs. However it is expected that there will be another face off between standards, this time between HD-DVD and Blue Ray Disc. There could be a delay in the wide scale distribution of players and recorders because of Hollywood's influence and the delay in interactivity standards for the formats, but competitive forces will probably mean the late 2005 launch will go ahead as scheduled. It is too early to tell which format will win.

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■

Resolving Home Networking Issues

Published: October 21, 2004

By Charlie Russel, Windows XP Expert Zone Community Columnist

In earlier columns I've addressed a number of networking issues that cause pain for users who bring their laptops home from work. In this column, I'll take a look at some of the top networking issues for home users. This list is by no means comprehensive or an exhaustive Top Five, but it does cover some of the problems heard regularly in the Windows XP Networking and the Web newsgroup. Each problem could be a whole column on its own, so I'll try to point you to other resources if I can't cover all the answers in this column. You'll find the Home and Small Office Networking with Windows XP home page a useful source for information.

How Do I Share An Internet Connection?

So you finally got a high speed Internet connection and you can let that old modem gather dust. But you've got more than one computer, so how do you hook things up so that all of them can share the same connection?

There are two basic ways to share an Internet connection:

•Use the Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) feature that is part of Windows XP.

•Use a router (gateway) between your computers and the cable or DSL modem.

Expert Zone columnist Sharon Crawford does an excellent job of describing how to use Internet Connection Sharing in her earlier column, Internet Connection Sharing. I'll describe how to add a **router** to your network.

Routers, often called gateways, are a way to both isolate and connect one segment of your network from another. In the home environment, they provide a way to separate your home network from the Internet, while at the same time providing a connection point. To your cable company or DSL provider, they make your internal network appear to be a single device, so you don't need to pay extra for additional computers connected to them. Figure 1 shows what your network might look like with a router installed and a couple of computers networked.

Routers are fairly inexpensive, generally under $100 for basic ones that include a built-in four-port hub and maybe even a wireless access point. They provide a layer of isolation and protection from the Internet while simplifying the setup of your home network. The procedure below walks you through setting up a router at home. The steps make some assumptions. First, that all your computers have network cards. And that you have the network cards configured to automatically obtain an IP address, which is the default setting.
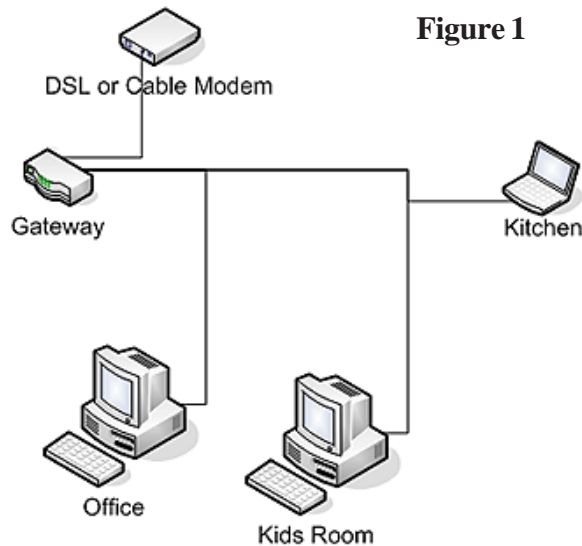
To set up a home network with a router:
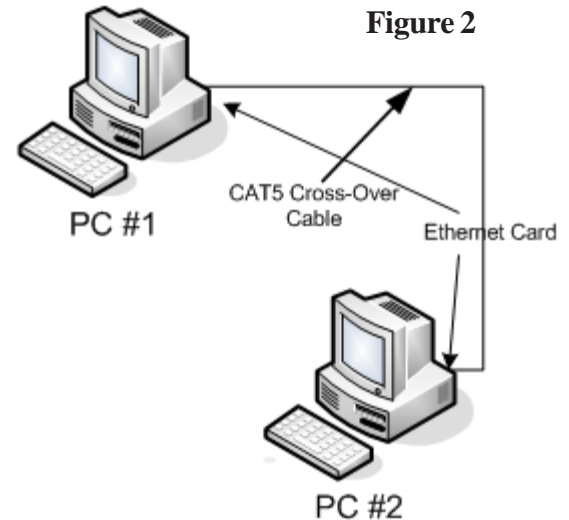
Figure 1

Figure 2

1. Plug in your cable or DSL modem and connect it to the cable system or the phone line with DSL. Specific instructions for this are provided by the cable company or your DSL provider, if they don't actually do the installation for you.

2. Connect the cable/DSL modem to the wide area network (WAN) port of your router with the cable provided. If none was provided, a standard CAT5 cable should be fine.

3. Power up the router and wait for all the diagnostic lights to settle down.

4. Connect your computers to the LAN ports on the router using standard CAT5 network patch cables.

5. Power up or restart your computers.

6. If your router includes a wireless access point and you're connecting some of your computers using wireless, you'll need to configure the wireless connections now.

For more on connecting wirelessly, see my earlier column, Using a Wireless Laptop at Work and at Home, which is about connecting your work laptop to your home network—the procedures are the same. For the details about how to trouble-shoot ICS, see Troubleshooting Internet Connection Sharing on Microsoft Windows XP.

My Network Card Won't Connect

Another common problem is when your network card won't connect and you've got an IP address that starts with 169.254. This can happen with either a regular network card or a wireless card, but is more common with a wireless card. The IP address that starts with 169.254 indicates that you didn't receive an IP address from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server for some reason, probably because there is a connectivity issue. If this is a wired connection, start by checking that the status lights on the back of the network card are the proper color. See your network card documentation for what the different colours mean. If they aren't the right color, there are at least five possibilities:

- The cable is bad.
- The cable is not firmly connected at both ends.
- The port on the hub or router is bad. Try plugging the network cable into a different port on the hub or router.
- The network card is bad.
- The cable is the wrong kind of network cable.

Let's examine that last possibility. You should always use CAT5, CAT5+ or CAT6 network cable. Not phone cable or other kinds of cable that may look the same. Second, there are both "straight-through" and "cross-over" cables. If you're connecting to a hub, switch, or gateway, then you need a straight-through cable. If you're connecting directly from the network card on one computer to the network card on another, you need a cross-over cable. For more information about cables, see Understanding Ethernet Cabling.

How Do I Connect Two PCs Together?

If all you want to do is connect two computers together to form a small network, a simple network configuration like that shown in Figure 2 is all you need.

If you're not using a hub, switch, or router to connect the two PCs, you need to use a cross-over cable. Since these are far less commonly used than straight-through cables and the two are not interchangeable, it's a good idea to clearly mark the cable as a cross-over cable. I like to keep one around the house for quickly connecting up two computers, but it's easy to get it confused with regular cables. So I bought my cross-over cable in a nice bright red colour.

Then, if you want to connect them both to the Internet, you need to turn on Internet Connection Sharing on one of the computers or connect them both to a router, rather than each other, as described earlier.

Why Do I Keep Getting Shutdown Messages?

This isn't really a network question, but is still one of the most commonly asked questions in the networking newsgroups. Unfortunately, it almost certainly means your computer is infected with the Blaster worm or another type or worm. You need to both protect yourself from further infections and remove the worm. Most importantly, you need to set your computer up for automatic installation of security updates. The Protect Your PC site can help with that. And I strongly recommend installing

Windows XP Service Pack 2—it includes an improved Windows Update, a stronger Windows Firewall, improved network protection, and helps make e-mail handling and Internet browsing more secure.

Can't See My Computer on the Network

Unfortunately, this is a more common problem than anyone would like. If you're used to connecting your computers using Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows Me, you'll find things a bit different with Windows XP. The single biggest cause of a disappearing Windows XP machine on the network is probably a computer **browsing issue** as described in my column on Troubleshooting Home Network Issues.

Although several things can cause a browsing problem, there's usually a pretty simple workaround. If you know the name of the share on the computer you want to connect to and you know the IP address of that computer, you can connect to it directly without ever having to actually "see" the computer on the network. For example, if I want to connect from the computer in the kitchen to the My Documents folder on my home office PC, all I need to know is the IP address of that home office PC. That's easy enough to find out. On your home office PC:

1. Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**,
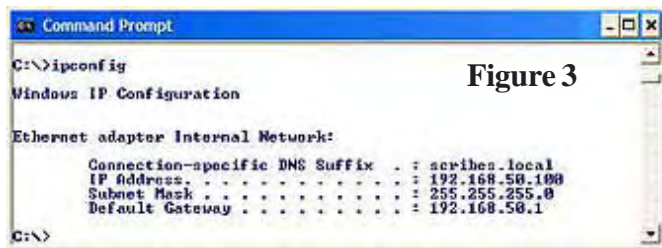

Figure 3

and then click **Command Prompt**.

2. Type **ipconfig** as shown in Figure 3, and then press **Enter**. Your IP address is listed. In this example, it's 192.168.50.100, but yours may well be different.

Now that you've got the IP address of the computer you want to connect to, go back to the kitchen computer. There are graphical ways to make the connection, but probably the easiest way is to use another command prompt. Assuming that you've already shared your home office My Documents folder as "CharlieDocs," you'd connect it to a Windows-assigned drive letter by following these steps:

1. Open a command prompt.

2. Type **net use * \\192.168.50.100\CharlieDocs** as shown in Figure 4, and then press **Enter**.-

Figure 4
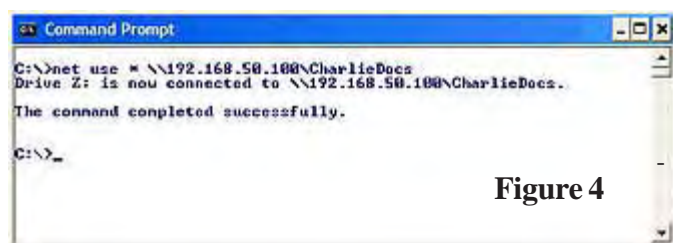
That's it, now drive Z is connected to my home office computer and I never had to worry about being able to actually see it in Windows Explorer or My Network Places at all. Obviously, your share point probably isn't called CharlieDocs, and your IP address is different than mine, so change the commands accordingly.

For more information about computer browsing, see Computer Browsing for SOHO Networks with Microsoft Windows and Troubleshooting Computer Browsing on SOHO Networks with Microsoft Windows.

For more information about file sharing, see File and Printer Sharing with Microsoft Windows and Troubleshooting File and Printer Sharing in Microsoft Windows XP.

Contact Me

If you use Windows XP or Windows XP Tablet PC Edition and have a networking or Tablet PC topic you'd like to see me cover, feel free to write me at Charlie@mvps.org. I especially want to hear what you think about your Tablet PC and what interesting ways you've found that a Tablet PC makes your work better.

It's impossible for me to acknowledge or answer individual e-mail messages and I can't provide individual technical support via e-mail. I do regularly participate in the Windows XP Tablet PC Edition newsgroup and the Microsoft Services for UNIX newsgroup and look forward to seeing you there.

Charlie Russel is currently an information technology consultant, having years of system administration experience with a specialty in combined Windows and UNIX networks. Charlie is the author of several books for IT professionals, including co-authoring these two recent titles: *Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Administrator's Companion* (Microsoft Press, 2003) and *Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 Administrator's Companion* (Microsoft Press, 2004).

"This article is provided by our friends at Microsoft® Windows Mindshare program."

This article and several others can be viewed at http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare.

http://www.windowsmarketplace.com/ is another Microsoft website that you should visit. It claims to have 93,000+ software and hardware items listed that are used with Windows. Read reviews, write your own reviews - requires a .NET sign-in to write a review. Most items had no reviews listed yet.

Photoshop Masking & Compositing

By John Donan, NOCCC

I'm forever learning Photoshop, as is the case with every Photoshop user I know. As such I scour every Photoshop book I own for added tidbits. The Katrin Eismann books have contributed more to my learning than any other and it is from this viewpoint that I will discuss this book, highlighting some of the things which might be of interest to others. (Katrin states in her introduction that, after 14 years with Photoshop, she has still learned in writing this book.)
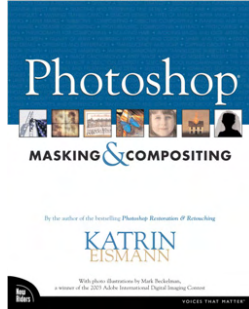
My book fell open to chapter three and, *bang*, there she showed that selected parts within a multilayered composite, revealing a coarse contour, can be refined by employing a Gaussian Blur to soften the edges of a Quick Mask. She says, "Using your Photoshop discretion to refine selection edges requires some practice and a critical eye. But believe me, making a good edge is so much better than trying to fix a bad edge with . . . . "

The book has thirteen chapters, covering 519 pages, organized into four parts: Selection Tools, Layers and Masks, Fine Details and Subjective and Objective Compositing. There are 1,070 single and multi-part illustrations, an average of more than two to a page. (At 1000 words per picture that's over a million words.) There are twenty contributors identified in the Appendix, links to their works are given there. As with other of her books, there is a dedicated website www.photomasking.com with ancillary information, such as images used for examples in the book. Because of proprietary issues, many figures shown in the book are not available.

The first part gives a history of this art form (composites) although many other applications of multilayer techniques are covered later on. There are twenty one pages addressing the set up to be considered at the start of any project, one of them is interpolation. PhotoshopCS now has two new methods of interpolation, Bicubic Smoother and Bicubic Sharper. She identifies their recommended use as Smoother for making an image larger and Sharper when reducing (down sampling) an image. The default interpolation setting, which applies to such things

It is chock-full of things your Photoshop instructor never told you.

as Free Transform, is set via the Preferences menu and should be Bicubic. Settings recommended for the eight sub-menus of Preferences are thoroughly covered, as well as color settings and management.

This composite created after September 11, 2001 reduced the size of the people to exaggerate the flag. © Mark Beckelman Photography

There are sixty three Tips, Notes and Cautions sprinkled throughout the book. As an example, where Display and Cursors settings are discussed there appears, "Tip: You can always access a precise crosshair cursor by pressing the Caps Lock key. To return to your regular cursor, simply press Caps Lock again." This is something I didn't know or had run across, not used and forgotten. The magnitude of things that can be done in Photoshop is so overwhelming that pointers such as these are of great benefit. One can sharpen his skills by just going through the book and checking the tips.

She has a thorough coverage of layer, channel, and vector masks. The reader can participate here in four examples employing eight images provided on her website. Katrin notes that there are four essential skills needed by an accomplished Photoshop user. Besides masking, they are managing color (covered in her previous book (*Photoshop Restoration and Retouching,*) making selections and working with layers. There is one chapter devoted to both image layers and effect layers, with hands on examples possible for the reader. Photoshop can accommodate 800 such layers. The second

Norton SystemWorks 2005 Premiere

By Steve Carmeli, NOCCC

Norton SystemWorks 2005 Premiere from Symantec (http://www.symantec.com/sabu/sysworks/pro/) is a large collection of utilities. It will run on all on all Windows platforms from 98 to XP Professional. Depending on your O/S and installed features, it can consume as much as 264 MB of disk space. It comes on two CDs (one is the Crash Recovery CD) so you don't need a DVD drive to install it. Users with a slight technical bent may purchase it for its UnErase wizard, Antivirus Program, Ghost Backup and other similar features, but it has quite a bit more to it. There's no real learning curve like a language, but there are a lot of utilities so there's a lot to remember.
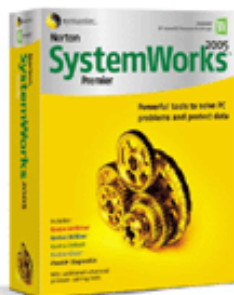
First let me lay out its basic components. The product consists of: the SystemWorks suite which contains the famous Norton Utilities, a suite itself, Norton AntiVirus, Norton Ghost, Norton Cleanup, Norton GoBack, One Button Checkup, SmithMicro's CheckIt Diagnostics, and Extra Features (access to an online store for more utilities; I didn't explore this indepth). The included manual was more like a booklet, only informational really telling you what was provided, not how to use the program. For actual instructions, you were directed to the online help. Online help was direct and informative. For example, it not only told me how to use Speed Disk, it also mentioned the fact that Speed Disk employed sensors; an additional help screen discussed how sensors are integrated with Disk Doctor.

One area where Symantec has gone to great lengths is in the intrusion detection arena. While I'd like to delineate all they provide, I haven't really got the space, so I'll be brief. Virus protection not only detects viruses but also worms and Trojan horses. A worm is a self-contained program that can replicate itself over a computer network. Norton's Internet Worm Protection (NIWP) can detect a worm on the network before it copies itself onto your computer. NIWP performs port blocking; Trojan horse detection; auto-blocking (detects repeated attacks from an IP address); it allows you to add and modify its rules, since it's activity is rules based; performs traffic analysis, to monitor network traffic for malicious activity; it prevents other computers from exploiting bugs in your computer's software – a typical worm technique; and, of course, it scans programs for known viruses.

The Norton SystemWorks Suite offers computer and file protection with the following array of features. Starting with all the uses of GoBack, it: recovers your drive to the way it was before

a catastrophic error if Windows won't start since the GoBack menu comes up before Windows does. GoBack's Advanced Disk Drive Restore provides more choices for recovery time and date than the System Restore provided by Windows. Moreover, you can locate individual files following a Disk Drive Restore or Advanced Disk Drive Restore. This feature also allows you to restore older or previous versions of files.

The Suite's advanced data protection and computer maintenance features can be used by techie-users as well as technicians and system administrators. These include: UnErase Wizard. Wipe Info, which permanently removes unwanted files and deleted files so that they're unrecoverable. Speed Disk, which reorganizes the clusters on your disk so files are stored in adjacent clusters; this improves load times and the probability that an accidentally deleted file can be unerased. Disk Doctor, which performs a series of surface analysis tests to ensure the integrity of your disks and repairs problems. It can work alone or in conjunction with System Doctor. System Doctor monitors and analyzes various computer functions including disk and CPU usage, disk integrity, system integrity and other system functions. (Personally I turned it off. It's this big dialog box that can't be hidden and basically tells you your PC is OK. What do I need my screen cluttered for?) Note that System Doctor does NOT install by default. WinDoctor, performs a Registry scan, missing .dll scan, program shortcut scan – both Windows and MS-DOS – (who uses shortcuts nowadays anyway?), missing files (I guess a file could be entered in a directory but not exist where its supposed to in the file system), and many other checks. Finally, for those using Windows 98/ME, there are five DOS-based utilities which are duplicates of the above.

There are other programs but you get the idea: there's a lot to like here and a lot to work with. So, let me share a few experiences. First, the Recovery CD. Though my PC had not crashed, I thought I should try and boot with it to see how it works. Well, my PC did give me the option to boot from D:\, but instead of booting to a program, I got a dialog box basically saying "there is no program in drive D:\, put a disk in." The button options were Cancel, Try Again, and Continue. The real problem though was that the computer was not responding to either the keyboard or the mouse. Bottom line: if my hard drive crashed, this Recovery Disk would be worthless to me.

Next was installation. The program was pretty smart here in two ways: (1) it detected that I had SystemWorks 2003 on my system and uninstalled it; and (2) it checked memory for viruses before installing so that the installation didn't get corrupted before installing the program.

GoBack is like the XP System Restore feature. If you commit some major catastrophic change to your system but can still boot, GoBack will restore your disk drive to a previous image. GoBack requires approximately 10% of contiguous disk space to perform its magic. Apparently System Restore does not require contiguous disk space – contiguous is the operative word here. Thus, before you install GoBack, it's wise to defragment your drive using Speed Disk. When you install GoBack it searches your drive for this contiguous space; this takes about

Microsoft Publisher 2003 with Digital Imaging

By John Donan, NOCCC

A Bundle Intended For Small Business

Frustration! This was my experience in installing Publisher as a component of Office 2003 which I subsequently boxed and returned to Microsoft. Microsoft's Publisher 2003 (now called Office Publisher 2003) of the Digital Imaging duo resides on a dedicated CD. This made installation appear more promising but if not for help from some Americans I would never know if Publisher 2003 had been fully installed..

My system exceeds Publisher's requirements. They are:

PC with Pentium 500MHz processor or higher

Min operating system— Microsoft Windows XP or later, Microsoft Windows 2000 SP3 or later

Min hard drive space— 250 MB

Min RAM size— 128 MB

This software requires a "one-user" verification code (the source of my frustrations) which I obtained from a voice activated recording. After retrieving and entering all of the seven six digit codes, a warning appeared informing me that my entry was invalid and I would not be provided all features of the program. There was no one in all of India who could help determine how my installation had been affected..

Without help, I then examined what had installed by trying its new features.. Everything I looked for was found. These included improvements intended to give the smaller business a means of preparing documents for commercial printing. They provide such things as the ability to convert from spot color to process color and vice versa and to convert RGB colors to CMYK. Most important of all, Publisher can now create CMYK composite PostScript files ready for color separation. My Indian contacts could have relieved my uncertainty had they told me, when you are in Reduced Functionality Mode, Publisher will display notice in the title bar and certain features, such as New and Save, will be disabled,.

The full program was installed however it did not install one of its features. When I first attempted to insert a WMF (Windows Metafile) image into a document, I received a warning, "The path to Microsoft Office Publisher cannot be found Verify that you have access to this location and try again, or try to find the installation package 'PUB11N.MSI in a folder from which you can install the product Microsoft Office Publisher 2003 - - The feature you are trying to use is on a CD-ROM or other removable disk that is not available Insert the 'Microsoft Office Publisher 2003' disk and click OK" After this there has been no other such occurrence.

> There was no one in all of India who could help determine how my installation had been affected.

In prior versions of Publisher (all are intuitive and easy to use) I used to insert blank lines of small font sizes, e.g. 4pt, to shim up and make adjacent columns appear even. This can now be done using a feature which has been added, baseline guides. These are guides to which lines of text can be aligned to provide a uniform appearance between columns of text, to precisely align text lines across multiple columns. With baselines activated, this adds the ability to use the 'snap to' features for ease of alignment. It also has tools to control widows and orphans.

Looking at other features one can see how this eighth version of Publisher has been expanded to help small business users create more professional communication and marketing materials. He can now create a Web site with new Web site wizards. Employ Master Design Sets for which there are ten new templates. Catalog Merge creates publications by merging text and photos from other sources, such as Microsoft Office Excel 2003 and Microsoft Office Access 2003.. There is also a new e-mail wizard which can create various types of marketing e-mail.

A modest image editing capability is provided with the inclusion of Digital Imaging Pro version 9. It requires an additional 250 MB of hard drive space. This program is a subset of the larger Digital Imaging Suite which contains an image managing capability. Both have many cosmetic tools, somewhat inflexible but all of which can be used in small time publishing. I have found an immediate use of this software in converting my library of WMF files, a format which is not recognized by Photoshop. I am finding other little things which complement my higher powered programs. A recent release of version 10 has panoramic stitching capability and more sophisticated color tools. Because of staggered release dates of Digital Imaging and Publisher, version 9 will stay bundled with Publisher 2003.

There is no literature included for Publisher but the product does have a 250 page manual for Digital Image 9 Pro. This document directs over 60% of its content to how to take good pictures. Only 73 pages are concerned with the software. The imaging software has good features but is quite limited when compared with competition in its stand alone price range.

Microsoft's price for this product is $209 with a $70 rebate ($139). On the Web it runs around $110. Web quotes for the individual software items are Publisher $76, Digital Imaging pro 9 is $72. Publisher is truly publishing software, more capable than word processors. I have had and used six of the prior seven versions of Publisher and will always have a need for it. If one is to purchase it for the first time I would recommend the additional purchase of an instruction manual as well. ∎

Google: The Missing Manual

By Vivian Picker, NOCCC

Google: The Missing Manual (first edition) is a guide for the novice and the old-hand user in expanding their use of search engines and a comparison of Google with other searches.

One of the values of the manual is that it starts out with the basics of clicking, Menus, and the use of arrows to denote commands in sequence. Many manuals tend to presume that the person using the manual has a certain level of knowledge. Throughout the entire book, this presumption holds, for which I as a novice am most grateful.

The quirks of Google, as the use of wild cards and the ten-word limit are different in Google in comparison to other search engines and their use is clearly illustrated and is of great use for the beginner and old hand.

I had not known of the six useful things that can be done in the search box itself: find definitions, act as a calculator, become a phonebook by typing in the name and city, get stock quotes and search with numbers. I found the use of numbers intriguing and spent some time playing with UPCs to find the manufacturers of goods, Patent numbers, flight numbers to get an arrival time by using the airline and flight number, and maps from just the area code.

In cases where a deeper and more specific result can be obtained by another search engine, that search engine is listed. As in the case of definitions, Onel.Look.com is listed, which aggregates definitions from some 1,000 dictionaries. Such search engines are listed throughout and are worth the price of the manual alone.

Superior searching covers a myriad of topics - all well defined and the tutorials are well written and helpful. The sections on syntax, mixing syntax and "Who Links to Whom" are extremely worthwhile as they are a perplexing problem for many of us. The use of languages for one's interface and search engine are particularly interesting in light of Microsoft's recent announcement of their new search engine offering 11 languages in contrast to the 88 in Google, if my count is correct. This may come in handy when doing research in another language, either for an article or a page site. The Google interface language has an offering of 35, should one want to email or write a letter in a language other that English.

Google Email, Google wireless, Foogle for comparison shopping, and the Web are all covered in great and interesting detail but my interest was captured by Google Groups. There are 20,000 interest group and 100,000 archives to draw upon to get information. For a small fee to Google ($.50) and a payment to

Blue Pixel Personal Photo Coach

Digital Photography Tips from the Trenches.

By Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

More than 22 million people bought a digital camera in 2004. This is not the total; as this review is being written there are still about 3 weeks left in 2004. If any of those 22 million people - or anyone who is planning to buy a digital camera needs a primer on photography, then this book is a good starting point. The mission of Blue Pixel (http://www.bluepixel.net) is "to have leading digital photographers teach their craft from an unbiased real-world perspective." The author, David Schloss, is their Editorial Director. Their approach is how to get and use a digital camera, but you don't need to become a geek. After all, only non-geeks get to go to Fiji for a photo assignment.

Personal Photo Coach is not just about digital photography; a lot of the information presented applies to photography in general. The basics of photography are covered in a simplified, but complete way. There are lots of tips, parenthetical comments and anecdotes from the author and other professional photographers speaking to the reader in a friendly and sometimes comedic style. These are among the best parts of the book because they show that even professional photographers have problems that can be overcome.

Many good quality color photos are used to illustrate the techniques being discussed. In fact, the book repeats some items when needed so you don't have to find it in some other section. They describe the benefits and problems with digital photography as compared with film. While the digital photographer does not have to deal with trays full of chemicals, we do need to be concerned with the shutter lag of a digital camera and that a hard dish crash could wipe out all of our photos. The digital photographer can change the ISO setting for each photograph and can add keywords and other information to each photograph. Especially well done and interesting were the explanations of the digital imaging sensor and the difference between screen resolution and printer resolution.

In a book that seems to be targeted at novices in digital photography, errors can cause some confusion. There were a few errors, so I appreciated the email address provided to report errors to the publisher. I am happy to report that my input was acknowledged in one day. The worst error was defining pixel as "pixel element" instead of "picture element." Sometimes the wording used seemed a bit peculiar. For example, they
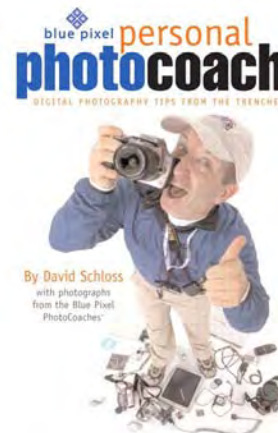
December Photos
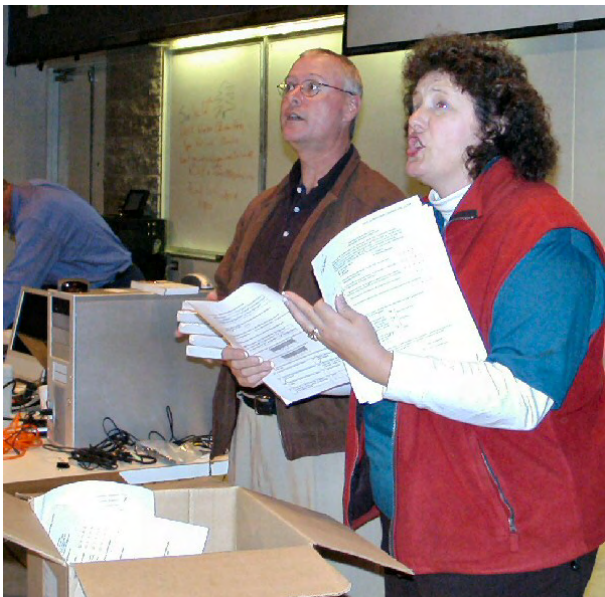
Microsoft's Keith Proctor demonstrated the Multimedia Center Edition of Windows XP. See Eric Saca's Main Meeting SIG report for details.

From the youngest to the oldest, a fun time was had at the volunteer party hosted by the Margolins.

Photography by Jim Sanders
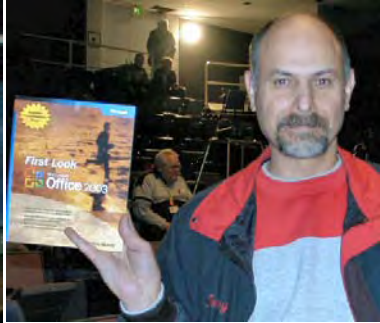
As you can see by the umbrella in the picture, it was a rainy meeting day. We are pretty sure that this hurt attendance. Notice that all the construction scars have been erased and the new library now just looks like part of the Chapman University campus

Cathy Shimozono donated the exercise bike to the raffle and winner Mark may be showing us how he plans to use it. Microsoft brought prizes for both the general raffle and thier own special drawing. Microsoft Office2003 Professional was the most valuable prize won.
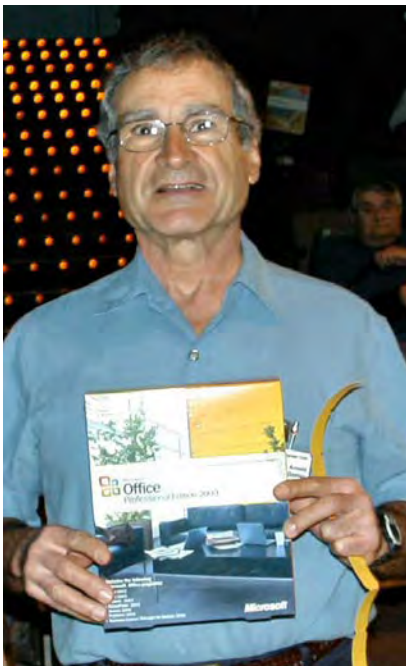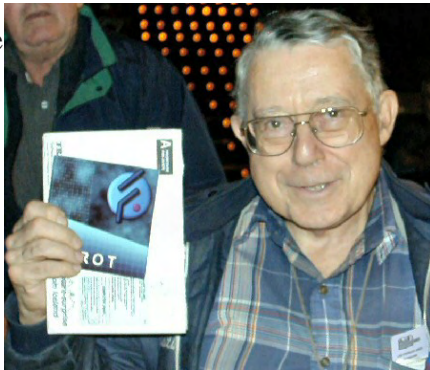
Photoshop masking

part concludes claiming "the soul of Photoshop," is the layer mask, whereby one can move, hide, blend, conceal and experiment with image combinations without the risk of losing so much as a single pixel. There were two examples here that caught my interest, they had multiple images of the same scene photographed on a tripod and then combined. One was made for different color temperatures to correctly combine interior and daylight illuminations. The other was a combination of seven different exposures of a building taken over a three hour period till sunset.

At least forty percent of the book is dedicated to the fine points of making and using selections. It categorizes five types, each requiring different tools and techniques. In the third part of the book, there is emphasis on capturing fine detail such as hair and also placing selections on another background. A recommendation was made here that one should consider acquiring a library of backgrounds. At this point I was introduced to Photoshop's new Shadow/Highlight which the author used in creating a mask. The techniques beyond fine details cover capturing translucence, smoke, flame, flowing cloth etc.

A poster for a fictitious City of Books festival in downtown New York required that each of its elements be photographed with consistent lighting and combined with proper perspective. © Mark Beckelman Photography

Finally we come to the considerations to be made in creating composites. First you must have some sort of a plan. You have to know what you want to do. If you create through your camera you must have all the props equipment and participants in line. There has to be consistency within the composite regarding perspective, scaling, illumination and camera technique.

Where photorealism is desired, the result must be accepted as real by the viewer. An example of this showed a heart forming in the bubbles of a glass of beer. It took twelve layers to accomplish this. The book addresses photographic deficiencies. E.g., Photoshop now has a Lens Blur filter. There are other techniques for taming distracting elements. The last chapter shows examples of creativity. Since creativity comes from within, I accept this as what can be done. Not what can be copied.

Katrin Eismann is world famous as a lecturer, author, and educator. Her books are written so that they are easy to read and easy to understand. Photoshop Masking & Compositing (ISBN#: 0-7357-1279-4) is published by New Riders Publishing. List Price is $54.99. Its price throughout the Internet is $37.39. Do I recommend it? Yes! Is it a bargain? Yes! It can self teach and costs close to half the tuition of a three-unit Community College course, requiring, in addition, a much more expensive and inferior text usually selected by the head of the campus bookstore. ∎

SystemWorks 2005

10 minutes. When it did so for me, it came back with an upsetting error message telling me it couldn't find 3689 MB of contiguous disk space and to clean up my system tray. Well I did and it tried again. The second error message said it found around 869 MB of contiguous disk space and did I want to use that? I declined. I finally gave in, turned off System Restore in order to return 4878 MB to the file system, which I assumed would enable GoBack to find and allocate its necessary disk space. It couldn't. It could only find 1637 MB, an amount I deemed insufficient for safety's sake. I declined again and turned System Restore back on.

So, I'm running out of space. What's my assessment of this product? Mixed. The two recovery features I'd need, Recovery Disk and GoBack, didn't work for me. Speed Disk and WinDoctor were OK and I already use Norton's AntiVirus, which works fine. Overall it's a bargain in terms of all that's provided and the utilities do work as advertised without crashing your system. I get regular updates of the AntiVirus definitions. In the Reviewer's Quick Start document that Symantec provided was a table comparing other products in a feature matrix. It mentioned that VCOM Systemsuite 5.0 and System Mechanic 4.0 Pro (not the Standard edition) both include software and hardware disaster recovery features. If you don't need all the utilities, consider these other products.

Frankly, I was pretty disappointed when the Crash Recovery CD failed on me. I emailed Symantec to request technical support, but their response was that email tech support would get back to me in four-five business days. I think this is their way of coercing customers into use fee-based phone support. (See support and pricing below). Many people buy the Norton Utilities just for its Crash Recovery CD. But once you've opened it, you usually can't return it, even if it fails, as it did in my case. Still, if Crash Recovery, GoBack and UnErase Wizard will work

on your PC, and you want all the other utilities, including Norton Ghost, then overall Norton SystemWorks 2005 Premiere is a good value at the available street price less manufacturer's rebate.

Symantec provides free email tech support and paid phone support. My first email tech support took about three days to get a response but they say it should only take a few hours. Phone support for issues that are not virus related are $29.95 per incident. For virus-related issues, the cost ranges from $39.95 to $69.95 per incident.

Retail Price: $99.95; Internet Price: $84.37 minus $30.00 rebate through 12/31/2005 on http://www.provantage.com.

My system is a Gateway 500X; the operating system is Windows XP Professional with Service Pack 1 installed and the Windows Server 2003 client; its based on a Pentium 4 running at 2 GHz, no hyper-threading, 256MB RAM, an NVIDA GEForce 2MX 100/200, 40GB Drive. It is on a Windows 2003 Small Business Server Premium Edition network. ■

Blue Pixel

state "As the amount of available light decreases by half, the shutter speed needs to get slower by double" instead of "As the amount of available light decreases by half, the exposure time must be doubled." However, the subjects are covered with enough thoroughness that the errors are not critical.

This book is an excellent primer for people who want to know more about photography and the use of a modern digital camera. It is worth the list price of $24.99, but you can get a discount if you become member of Peachpit Press and order this book (or any other) directly from them. Other sources offer discounts as well.

Copyright 2005. By David Schloss; Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 304 pages; $24.99; ISBN 0-321-30528-0. ■

Google

the answer provider, which is determined by the questioner, the answer to some arcane inquire is yours. Should the answer not be to your liking there is a measure by which your fee may be recovered. It takes setting up an account on Google Answers. I'm signing up immediately.

Lastly, the Experimental Tool (http://labs.google.com) allows one to see the work being done on developing new projects, some of which may become regular offering. On this site one is able to tell the engineers what is liked or not and why. Not often are the consumer's opinions deemed worthwhile by vendors. This is most refreshing and one hopes it is used often.

The manual is well written. The questions that a reader might have asked are anticipated and are defined in the text and graphs. The graphs are clear though somewhat small, but that is determined by the size of the book. Tips, hint and notes appear on every page with a wealth of information. In the case of the use of the bank of 880 million images available in Google Images, there is a page of legal guides. All in all the book is well worth the $19.95 price. The book is authored by Sarah Milstein and Rael Domfest and published by Pogue Press-O'Reilly. ISBN 0-596-00613-6. O'Reilly offers a discount to user group members http://www.oreilly.com. ■

Corel Corp. and Jasc Software

Reviews Editor's note: Jasc has been a very supportive software company, providing NOCCC with copies of their programs for review as well as "door prizes."

Corel Corporation, one of the industry's top ten packaged software vendors, acquired Jasc Software, Inc. in October 2004. Jasc is noted for its popular Paint Shop family of digital photography and imaging software products. Corel is going to keep the Paint Shop name but the branding on the boxes will change to Corel Paint Shop Pro around March or August 2005. For now, you can buy boxes with Jasc Paint Shop Pro on it. The company is maintaining the Paint Shop offices in Minneapolis, MN and working on the next releases of the software as originally planned.

Paint Shop Pro Studio is a new photo editor for consumers who are ready to do more than novice editing without a steep learning curve. Paint Shop Pro Studio leverages Paint Shop Pro's power and flexibility to provide a key set of photo editing and graphic design tools that are easy-to-use, making editing photos and creating graphics fun for first-time and intermediate users. Paint Shop Photo Album 5 - Standard Edition is included free of charge to help users easily protect, organize, find, and share their photos, further extending the power of Paint Shop Pro Studio.

Paint Shop Pro 9 is the latest version of the award-winning photo and graphics editor, combining all the functionality of Paint Shop Pro Studio with more advanced features necessary for digital photographers, graphics hobbyists, and business professionals. Paint Shop Pro 9 includes Raw image support, digital noise removal and chromatic aberration removal filters, fill flash, and other high-end functionality often sold individually for hundreds of dollars. Paint Shop Pro 9 introduces a new set of integrated art media painting tools that enable digital artists and graphics hobbyists to add realistic wet and dry artwork to their photos, illustrations, and images.

Paint Shop Photo Album 5 sports a redesigned interface that follows the digital photographer's workflow, putting the tools users need to view, enhance, share and protect photos at their fingertips. Designed to empower users to enhance images and organize photos in a few mouse clicks, the software seamlessly integrates with consumers' lifestyles, allowing them to share photos including e-mail, camera phones, scrapbooks, video CDs and printed pictures. Using Quick CD, save photos in just two clicks and take the CD to a photo developer or use PhotoSafe, an archiving system with automatic reminders. Also included are drag and drop scrapbook/photo album pages, flexible print templates, and 17 ways to share photos, while giving users the power to quickly and easily view and organize photos by file free, favorite folders, calendar view or keywords. (This software received a favorable review from John Donan in the December 2004 Orange Bytes.) ■

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:

Hardware

QuickCam Communicate – Easy video communications from Logitech including two-way real-time video calls, video chat, and more. Requires a Pentium III 700 MHz or better. MSRP=$50.

diNovo Cordless Desktop – Logitech's ultra-flat keyboard, optical mouse, numeric pad, and mini-receiver is completely wireless anywhere. MSRP=$150.

Boxed Programs and CDs

Mathematica 5.1 – This is the latest release of Wolfram's world-renowned science & technology computational software system. Building on Mathematica 5.0's dramatic speed, scope, and scalability improvements, Version 5.1 adds a host of new capabilities, especially for working with large-scale, diverse types of data. It introduces innovative algorithms to deliver unmatched performance for all steps in the data handling process—importing, analyzing, manipulating, or plotting. This encompass textual and network as well as numerical data. MSRP=$1800.

Digital Image Pro 10 – Complete photo editing made easy from Microsoft. Edit, create, & share your digital photos. Toolsets contain fast Auto Fix and powerful correctional tools in one location. Requires a multimedia PC with 700 MHz processor. MSRP=$90.

3D Home Architect Design Suite Deluxe 6 - More than just a layout program, 3D Home Architect® Design Suite Deluxe 6 from Broderbund gives you the ability to fine-tune every element of your home design or landscaping project.* Convenient wizards and tutorials help you achieve your goals fast, while unlimited customization guarantees that your dream home will be perfect in every detail. Easy to use, yet powerful enough to generate buildable blueprint-style plans, it's the only design program you'll need. MSRP=$70.

PDF Converter 2 Pro – Everything you need to convert & create PDF files! This ScanSoft application turns PDF files into fully formatted Word documents and forms. And it creates PDF files from Word and all of your other PC applications. MSRP=$100.

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.

Zone Alarm Security Suite 2005 – This award-winning program contains the Zone Alarm Pro Firewall 5, Antivirus protection, Instant Messaging Security, Pop-Up Ad Blocker, and more. MSRP=$70.

VirusScan Pro 2005 v.9 – McAfee's "suite" contains virus protection, anti spy/pop-up ad detectors and SpamKiller as well as QuickClean and a digital shredder utility. MSRP=$70.

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.

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.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product, its vendor, and its cost (list, vendor discounts, & street) so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. Be objective, but balanced in your review in so far as plaudits and criticisms are concerned. Remember, you are reviewing for your colleagues and not for the vendor.

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

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

II. Does it stand out compared to similar products?

III. What are its major features?

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

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

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

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

I. Requirements:

a. Operating systems?

b. Processor/speed?

c. Memory, Disk space, Video & Audio?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

a. Was it difficult?

b. Copy or write protected?

c. Does it allow drive and directory selection?

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

III. Information about your system:

a. Hardware?

b. Operating system? Version?

c. Memory?, Video display?

IV. Documentation:

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

b. Was it clear, concise and helpful?

c. Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:

a. How is the vendor's tech support?

b. Does it cost anything?

c. Is it a toll call?

d. Does the vendor provide free Internet support?

VI. About the product:

a. What comes with the product?

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

c. Version number and release date?

d. How difficult is the learning curve?

e. Would you buy/use the product?

f. Do you recommend it?

g. What don't you like about it?

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

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

j. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

The following list of questions applies to books:

a. What is the subject matter?

b. Does the book meet its stated purpose?

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

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

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

f. Is it easy to read and technically accurate?

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

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

i. How are the key points highlighted?

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

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

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

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

n. Finally, do you recommend it?

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

Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals, **but length should be secondary to content sufficiency**. However, we request you limit general articles and software reviews to 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or

to any product that's reviewed. An expensive software package ($300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program ($50 or less) might have 500 words. **Reviews must be completed within 2 months** so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him (714)779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

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

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

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

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! Also please spell check your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Don't use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

We look forward to seeing your review in print and on the NOCCC Web site

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca

At the December meeting, we received an exciting presentation from Keith Proctor of Microsoft. He showed off their new version of Windows -- the Media Center Edition.

President Cathy Margolin ran the meeting and announced that a Volunteer Christmas Potluck Party was coming up on Sunday, December 12th. Both past volunteers and people willing to volunteer in the coming year were invited.

Gerry Resch mentioned that someone new took over the ACP swap meet and was re-opening it. It will be happening at the same place, on the last Sunday of every ODD month from now on.

Cathy introduced Keith Proctor, who came from Microsoft in San Diego. Keith began by briefly explaining the advantages of upgrading to Windows XP Service Pack 2 (which are listed on the Microsoft website at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2). Then he delved into the Windows XP Media Center Edition.

Keith explained that this new edition of Windows is basically just the same as XP Professional, with special features added to allow your computer to be the center of your home theater. With the Media Center Edition, you can watch movies, watch TV, listen to music, view and manage pictures, and so much more, all from your computer. You can watch TV from several sources, including cable, satellite and broadcast TV. You can view your programs in High Definition (HDTV). You can listen to music from radio stations and download it from many sources available on the Internet. There's

a powerful new search function that allows you to find the music artists, albums, movies and TV programs that interest you. Also, there's a key new feature of the Media Center Edition that is essential with any home theater system -- a remote control.

Now there are four editions of Windows XP -- the Home, Professional, Tablet and Media Center Editions. The Media Center Edition has all the features of XP Professional -- except the ability to join a Windows networking domain.

Keith went over the requirements and recommendations for a Media Center computer -- a mid- to high-range processor; a 65+ gigabyte hard drive (most come with over 100 gigs); CD-RW and DVD-RW drives; support for advanced graphics, including DirectX 9; an optional infrared remote control and sensor; an optional TV tuner that can also receive over-the-air HDTV; and integrated networking components.

There are three types of Media Center PC packages typically offered. The "Base Media Center" includes a PC with at least the minimum requirements, as well as integrated graphics, integrated audio and a Celeron or equivalent processor. The "Complete Media Center" includes everything from the Base package and adds a remote control, TV and FM tuners, 5.1/7.1 audio, laptop form factors and optionally, faster graphics capability. (AM radio is not supported, but Keith did not remember the technical reason; it's probably difficult to receive on top of wireless component signals.) Finally, the "Home Entertainment PC" includes everything from the Complete package and adds a second PC in the family room -- connected to a standard or widescreen TV and home network. It also includes additional Audio/Video support for connecting to a home theater. Keith pointed out that currently, XP Media Center Edition only supports the ATSC version of HDTV, not the cable version.

A member asked the controversial question If you are just interested in managing your TV watching and record-

ing, why not get TiVo instead of XP Media Center Edition? Keith pointed out that there are two main reasons -- (1) XP Media Center has everything that TiVo has, with no subscription costs because you can access the program guide for free off a website; (2) It is a full computer, providing many more capabilities than a TiVo box, including the ability to download and save pictures, play DVDs and much more.

After providing the background information, Keith gave us a short demonstration of the Media Center Edition's new features. He started off with the new version of the Aquarium screensaver -- which was three-dimensional and very impressive. Next, he showed us the new Windows desktop, which was similar the original XP desktop but had a slightly different look. From there, he took his Media Center Edition remote control and pressed the Green Button. At that, the screen went black and the Media Center Edition menu appeared.

This menu lists the main sections of activities that you can perform with the Media Center PC, including items like My Videos, My Pictures, My TV, My Music, Radio, and a few more. As Keith demonstrated, this menu can be entirely controlled with the Media Center remote.

For the rest of the demonstration, Keith went into the various sections of the Media Center menu and showed what they could do. In the My Music section, he showed that playlists can be created and music can be listed by album, artist, song, genre and several more categories. He went into the search function and found the latest Alanis Morissette album, just by entering two letters for an artist searchAL. All these functions -- playlist creation, presentation of music, and music search -- can be performed with the remote control.

In the My Pictures section, Keith showed how you could use the remote to sort photos by name and date. You can click the "More Info" button to add or display extra information about each picture. The remote also allows you to perform some basic photo-cleanup, in-

cluding red-eye removal, changing of contrast and cropping. As Alanis Morissette was playing in the background, Keith took a folder of his pictures and launched a slideshow presentation with it, displaying each picture for about 30 seconds. This resulted in a music-video type of experience.

Keith typically returned to the Media Center main menu with the remote's "Back" button, which backs up to the previous menu or screen you had viewed.

In the My TV section, Keith showed us the free guide -- the equivalent of TiVo's guide. For each program, it offered three record options -- Record, Record Series, and Advanced Record. He briefly showed us the Advanced Record options, which allow you to specify the frequency of recording programs, an extra interval to record after the stated program's end time (stated in minutes, in case it goes into overtime, which is typical with ballgames), and the recording quality (the higher the quality, the more hard disk space is used).

Advanced Record also offers special program-search options. For example, you can tell the Media Center to track and record all movies by a certain producer, with a certain subject or with a certain star, anytime they are broadcast in your area. Keith demonstrated a search of all movies produced by Ridley Scott in the movie database (Alien, GI Jane, etc.). This database also includes detailed information about all the movies it contains.

The members asked many questions. In answering them, Keith provided many useful details about the XP Media Center Edition. These included the following There is a Windows Media Center community website at www.TheGreenButton.com. The remote control that he used was not the only option -- many different styles of remote are available. Windows XP Media Center Edition does not support Picture-in-Picture at this time. It will support external USB and FireWire disk drives.

Keith concluded his presentation by describing two new devices you can use

with Media Center PCs. First, these systems offer the ability to extend your experience anywhere in your house (depending on your budget) -- through the use of Media Center Extenders. These are devices that allow you to experience your Media Center PC from other monitors or TVs in the house. Each device extends the experience to one monitor or TV. Extenders retail for between $199.00 and $399.00, depending on their features.

Second, XP Media Center Edition also offers the ability to take your music, videos and pictures with you on the go. This is through the use of Portable Media Center PCs. You can download your movies, TV programs, photos and/or music to one of these devices, then access it when you're away from your main Media Center PC. (Without time to demonstrate it, Keith just showed us a Portable Media Center PC. It looked like a cross between a personal DVD player and a PDA.)

For more information about Windows XP Media Center Edition, link to www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/mediacenter.

As usual, Keith brought a demonstration evaluation survey. He also conducted a special raffle for everyone who filled it out. In this raffle, he gave away a copy of Microsoft OneNote, FrontPage and several t-shirts.

In the main raffle, a copy of Microsoft Office 2003 was given away -- as well as an exercise bike. The members-only raffle (for everyone wearing their badges) gave away a copy of WhiteCanyon's SecureClean software.

Next Meeting – Our January meeting will be The Ink Dot lady, Cynthia Hunter, who will talk on Printer Refills, Resetting and Repairs, the latest information the major printer manufactures don't want you to know. She will go over the most common things that cause a printer to skip, clog and break down.

Our New Technology will be a hands on Camera Question session, just like the October Digital meeting. ∎

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG

By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Market Review

The Dow was up 278 points since last meeting and our members vote from last month was correct again. A look at the charts showed a rally in progress which has made new highs for the year except for the Dow. We used AmiBroker for the charts and its custom features for plotting market indicators – all showing very good signs. These are the conditions where most investors shold be fully invested in the market – and use short term pullbacks to add in new funds.

Using the OTC/NY market indicator chart, the dominant market was identified as the OTC, a positive condition for individual investors in stocks. A feature of the AmiBroker charts provides for including an interpretation and comments in special plots such as this, appearing in a text window and explaining what the indicator signifies, and the good or bad (true/false) conditions.

Amibroker Demo

More of AB features were shown, demonstrating the controls for managing charts sizes, scales, scrolling, etc. The database interface with external data sources is another significant feature due to its flexibility. Data plug-ins access MetaStock, TC2000, FastTrack or QuotesPlus databases with no loss of performance. This turns out to be a feature for new users starting with AB, since these data bases can be used without disrupting their existing systems, learning AB and adding new capabilities without losing any.

Access to external databases such as QuotesPlus (or the other 3 vendors) is done on-demand, dynamically using

CAI SIG - continued

windows DLLs. Quotes are not saved in AB – assuring that the latest update to the database will be used. This keeps the responsibility for database maintenance with the data provider. This is good thing, if the data provider handles splits, distributions, etc. in a timely fashion and refreshes the database when quotes are wrong or missing. For data obtained from the internet, AmiQuotes fetches the data and passes it to AmiBroker for storing in AB's local database. This data needs to be managed for splits, distributions, and missing elements. This is not so bad considering the data is obtained for free – no subscriptions required.

A few charts compared the different types of trading models that AB could backtest. The powerful models are those that handle portfolio trading, i.e. handling multiple trades and multiple open positions. These are more realistic than simple one or two security buy/sell models since they model how you'd actually trade – holding several positions in a portfolio. In addition, the setup provides for use of stops, allowances for fees, slippage, and trading delays to adjust the model for many conditions. Rotational trading is an interesting variation of portfolio trading where all the buy and sell activity is determined by a position scoring formula. The formula ranks securities in the list and works off the top of the list to manage your portfolio. Returns from rotational trading may be higher than regular portfolio trading. Initial testing has shown good results, but warrant more investigation before putting them into play in the market.

Discussions

The topic for this month was how do we pick what to buy? And if we had a $100,000 tax free to invest, what would we do to invest it now?

Foster identified his preferred investing method was based on using a rotational strategy. He uses Monocle, a system for evaluating and trading mutual funds (h t t p : / / www.monoclesystems.com) and is now transitioning to AmiBroker to use some of its capabilities, including rotational

trading. Apparently Monocle has not continued to add features for the past years and much of its capabilities are proprietary and you can't fully investigate or analyze them. He is now attempting to bring some of Monocles ideas into AB and compare results.

Bob D. uses TC2000 Mutual Funds and MetaStock. He mentioned use of three year returns as a key for fund selection, but they needed to be plotted over time to see how they vary from a historical perspective. Using MetaStock to chart these, he is able to do more than TC2000 provides.

Harold wanted to point out the major decline in the dollar (versus the Euro) and the rise in gold and oil. He mentioned this was about 14% this year and if one could put money into Euros or a European investment, you would make money for several more years as the dollar continues to decline. We took a look at some charts for the dollar, gold, and oil and agreed that small cap international stock funds were a good solution for this strategy. ∎

Digital Imaging SIG

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Larry Klees, who makes his living in computer graphics, demonstrated several add-in filters for special effects in not only the ubiquitous Photoshop, but several other photo editing programs including (but not limited to, of course) Photoshop Elements and JASC Photo Shop Pro. In examining the capabilities of various filters used by Larry, he and I spent about four hours at his home the week before the last meeting just cursorily examining what they do without spending much time on the how. Time passed so quickly we must have been having fun.

At the meeting, Larry was somewhat restricted by the use of a computer other than his, but hey, we've all been there, right? He carried it off quite well

and saved yours truly from putting several stalwart soldiers to sleep via my own lectures.

Whatsa, whatsa filter, you ask? Often it's a one-button push that does such things as cure red eye, polarize pale blue sky into a more dramatic darker blue with choices as to direction of polarity, blurs an underlaying layer copy into a splashy chrysanthemum pattern, manufactures sunlight (!) for an otherwise dusky scene, or creates a spacey tunnel from an ordinary snapshot. Progressively more and more filters are added into later versions of photo editing programs without the user having to buy them separately, but the best, unfortunately, are still available only one at a time in prices ranging from $20 to about $120.

The most impressive was the Andromeda filter that cured in one fell swoop ALL of these: lens distortion, perspective imbalance, and verticality. Incorporated separately, these would mess the picture up somewhat. For fashion photography, the Glitter Guru (reported on earlier) favors Eye Candy above all others. Larry pretty much agrees.

YO! Suggestions for future SIGs are not only welcome, they are encouraged! Speak up, kids! This is your SIG more than mine. Teaching takes up big bytes of my time now, but between semesters, I'm pretty much available 25/8 at either jimless@adelphia.net or 714-546-6677. .∎

PC Question &Answer SIG

By Jim Sanders

Once again we are going to try and help all of you Digital Camera users to deal with that wonderful new toy. Whether you have had it for a while or it is a brand new Christmas present, coping with how to use it is a challenge for most people and my SIG will be an extension of the 9:30 SIG. So bring your camera and ALL of the documentation that you have. ∎

PRODUCTS *FROM PAGE 18*

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.

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

Currently Available are the Following Books

Adobe Photoshop CS one-on-one – Deke McClelland authored this book too – same style, size and accompaniment. From O'Reilly. MSRP=$40.

Digital Photography Hacks – Another one of O'Reilly's "Hacks" series, this book by Derrick Story has 100 industrial-strength tips & tools. MSRP=$30.

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 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.

PC Hacks – 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools by Jim Aspinwall from O'Reilly shows you how to get the most out of your hardware and software. MSRP=$25.

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.

Windows XP Power Hound – This book by Preston Gralla from O'Reilly shows you more than 400 ways to improve your Windows experience and boost your computing skills from every angle. 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.

Web Search Garage – Best-selling author and research expert Tara Calishain offers her insider tips and tricks for web searching in this title from Prentice Hall PTR's Garage Series. MSRP=$20.

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.

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.

UNIX Shells by Example, 4th Ed. – Author Ellie Quigley has thoroughly updated her classic book and delivers the information today's shell programmers need most – including comprehensive coverage of Linux shell programming with bash! The accompanying CD has a comprehensive shell programming code library with all source code & data files necessary for this book's hundreds of example programs. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=$50.

A Practical Guide to Red Hat Linux, 2nd Ed. – This 1100-page book (plus CDs) is authored by Mark Sobell & published by Prentice Hall walks you through everything that matters for the advanced operating systems. MSRP=$50.

Moving to the Linux Business Desktop – This book is the complete technical resource for migrating to Linux, administering efficiently, and using it to drive cost savings throughout your organization. Respected Linux Journal columnist Marcel Gagne walks you step-by-step through planning and managing the tran-

sition, getting users up and running, and keeping them happy. The accompanying CD is a bootable Linux "Knoppix" with thin-client software. From 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.

Linux Pocket Guide – This book by Daniel Barrett covers the most useful and important parts of day-to-day Linux in a concise & friendly style for beginners as well as experience users. From O'Reilly. MSRP=$10.

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.

Building Applications with the Linux Standard Base – An initiative of the Free Standing Group, the LSB is a set of standards designed to increase compatibility among Linux distributions and enable applications to run on any LSB-compliant system. This book (plus CD) shows developers how to sreate, test, and certify software for LSB-2 compliance. MSRP=$45.

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.

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
Assistive Technology	Science	306	2:30	Chuck Fete/Elise Edgell	cjfete@cox.net	
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	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515

Please report SIG changes to Herbert Wong, Jr. ocug@singularitytechnology.com 714-968-7264

Benefits

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.

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 ■
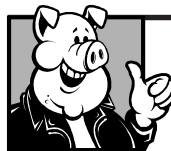
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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.

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

The Help Line information is published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to NOCCC members.

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.

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.

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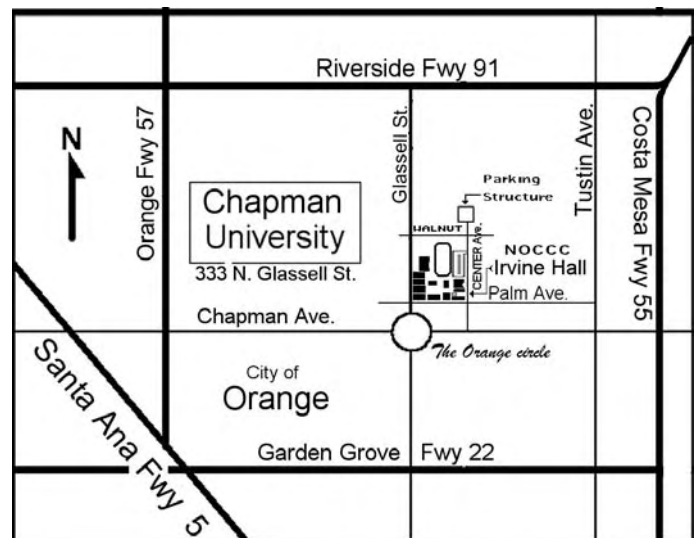
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