



range Bytes

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

Vol 30 • No 6

JUNE 2005

Elections are this meeting YOU can still run

Slate on page 9

Vance Jochim

Computing, Photography, and the
Internet in today's Iraq

details on page 4

NOCCC Meetings - June 5th

8:30 a.m.

Visual Programming I *Science 109*
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.

Autocad *Science 203*
Linux for Desktop Users *Wilkinson 111*
Visual Programming II *Science 109*
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:30 a.m.

Computer Aided Investing *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Computer Essentials *Science 111*
To be announced.
Digital Imaging - *Irvine Hall*
Studio Lighting and possibly some time on Indesign
Linux (Intermediate) *Wilkinson 111*

10:00 a.m.

Linux for Server Administrators *Wilkinson 111*
Visual Programming III *Science 109*
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.

Computer Security *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts *Wilkinson 111*

Macintosh *Wilkinson 221*
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**

Vance Jochim on computing in Iraq

2:30 p.m.

Assistive Technology - *Irvine Hall*
Learn how your computer can help you live better
Genealogy *Science 111*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials *Science 109*
To be announced.
New Technologies *N/A*

OS/2 News and Installation *Science 203*

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

Meeting Dates
June 5, July 10, Aug 7

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“Friends Helping Friends”

FREE COMPUTER CLASS

The MarketPlace Education Center at 201 E. 4th St. in Santa Ana is offering a free PC computer workshop class. **You can start attending at any time.** The class covers just about all aspects of personal computing, software, hardware, building new machines, upgrading/fixing the machine you have. The class is held Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 am till noon in room 211. **Jim Sanders** is the instructor. Call the **Centennial Education Center** at 241-5700. Class # 64200.09.....
Class starts August, 2005

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following positions:

Circulation — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

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

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

President's Message

By Cathy Margolin

It has been a good year at NOCCC for all of us. We have added a new SIG – Assistive Technologies and several groups have grown, such as the PC Q and A and the Digital Photo SIGs. We have had some really great speakers- Steve Gibson, The Digital Photo Guy, and Microsoft, are a few that come to mind, plus a 29 and Holding anniversary party. I would like to thank all the Board members and volunteers who have made it happen. I would especially like to thank John Johnson, who will be retiring from the Board for all his years of volunteering. I have really enjoyed being your President for these last 2 years. Thank you all!



The Computer industry is changing also. Chinese computer maker Lenovo has completed its purchase of IBM's personal computer division. Adobe is buying Macromedia, known for its Flash and Dreamweaver line of software for the web. Microsoft will be distributing a new anti-virus program called OneCare by year's end, which will change the anti-virus market. . Another Harris survey showed that three quarters of U.S. adults go online, with more than half using broadband at home, which really increased from last year. Actually the only thing that is constant in the Computer Industry is change!

Our future summer meeting dates are: June 5th, July 10th (2nd Sunday due to July 4th) and August 7th.

It is with great sadness that I mention that Joan Edwards, our ever cheerful consignment volunteer, has passed on unexpectedly of cancer. We will miss her and her family will be in our thoughts.

For the June 5th meeting, the Digital Photo SIG will have the manager of the Ritz Camera store at MainPlace Mall.

Another of our members that we have thought of recently, Vance Jochim, will be back in town from Iraq, and will show us how he connects and stays in touch half way around the world. He also has quite a few pictures to share from his Canon digital camera and will tell us the trials and tribulations of keeping technology working. On June 5, he will be our Main Meeting speaker. It should be very interesting. We will also hold elections then, so if you would like to run for the Board, now it the time!

LIGAS Microsystems

Custom Systems - Consulting - Service

Cable and DSL services configured

Routers installed

sick computers healed

jsanders@ligasmicro.com

714-636-5523

NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



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!

"Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies," yet:

Prentice Hall and Addison-Wesley Books

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.

COREL/Jasc discount

Corel is once again enthusiastically supporting the user group community and we sincerely welcome them back. Please visit the APCUG User Group special pricing page at <http://www.corel.com/specialusergroups>

The boxed software is 50% off list and includes both Corel and Jasc products. Paint Shop Pro 9 is only \$59, Photo Album \$29.

Wireless Security Program- free

From Terry Currier -Well I promised at the SCRUGS meeting I will let you know of a program that makes wireless networks secure. Not only that but it is easy to do so. The program is normally \$99 for a license of three computers. They as of today (Monday) are giving that for free. Go to the www.lucidlink.com site and click on the icon saying Free 3 User Home Edition. You

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

May Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes



The minutes of the NOCCC Board of Directors Meeting is published in the print version of the Bytes which is mailed to all members.

JUNE 5TH MEETING PREVIEW

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG -9:30PM will be Mike from Ritz Camera / Main Place

MAIN MEETING 1:00PM, Irvine Hall - - Vance Jochim, early member and past club president, will be back in town from Iraq, and will show us how he connects and stays in touch half way around the world. He also has quite a few pictures to share from his Canon digital camera and will tell us the trials and tribulations of keeping technology working in a hostile environment.

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 an IO Gear Combo package and PC Sync software and minor prizes

The **Member-only prize** (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be a copy of MS One Note program.

Consignment Table

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

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

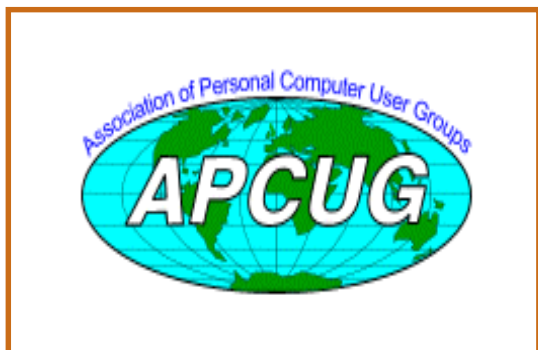
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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

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

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

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



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SBC DSL

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

I am going to explore the question that a lot of people are asking themselves. Should I or can I switch to DSL?? In most of the greater Los Angeles basin, the answer to can I, is probably yes.

If you checked into DSL in the past and found that it was not offered at your location, there is a good chance that things have changed. DSL, just like regular dial-up, is subject to the laws of Physics and Electronics. When a signal is transmitted over the phone lines, be it voice, dial-up modem, or DSL, the impedance of the line attenuates the signal. Impedance is the sum of three elements in the line. Pure DC resistance and frequency related capacitance and inductance. The greater the length of the phone line and the higher the frequency of the signal you are trying to send over the line, the greater the attenuation. The pure DC resistance aspect of the problem is easy for most people to relate to. If you connected ten 16 gauge extension cords, each 50' long, and plugged in a toaster, you would be lucky to get warm bread as most of the power is lost in the cord. The frequency aspect of the signal can be just as tough.

The 28,000 feet of phone line between my computer and the Pacific Bell central office meant that the best speed my 56K modem could achieve was 24,600 bits per second. Much over 12,000 feet made DSL dicey. As a result, Cable was the most cost effective broadband choice that I had. When Comcast bought out my original AT&T provider, they raised the price to nearly \$60 a month. This was a little hard on the pocket book. SBC has been pretty busy installing what I have heard called Pronto boxes. This is basically a miniature local central office that is connected to the real central office by fiber optic cable. This reduces the length of the copper wire needed to hook up your location and makes DSL usable. The standard DSL maxed out at 1,500,000 bits per second download speed, which is about half of the regular Cable speed on a good day at the right time.

Once SBC was able to offer DSL in an area where they had installed a Pronto box, they started marketing the service to potential users. I received a phone solicitation from a courteous woman working for a SBC affiliated marketing company. The offer was for regular SBC Yahoo Express DSL at \$26.95 a month or the enhanced, twice as fast, DSL Pro, for \$36.95 a month. That was enough of a savings that she had my attention. There were two aspects to the offer that I didn't like. The first is that SBC Yahoo, just like AOL, MSN, Earthlink, and others, wants to install Mega Bytes of what I consider software junk on my computer. In the name of "Enhancing your Internet experience," read that as putting their advertisements in your face, they want to install software that often slows

down your start-up, eats up your resources, modifies your browser, and not infrequently causes conflicts with existing programs. Especially if your computer is running Windows XP, it already knows how to talk to the Internet without any additions. I had already learned how to get connected without using the SBC Yahoo install CD, so that was not a problem. The second thing I dislike is the standard self-install kit that SBC supplies. This kit includes four or five individual filter/splitters. You are supposed to plug one of these little dongles into each phone outlet in your home and then plug each phone or DSL modem into the dongle. This approach works, but it is not as good as installing a master filter/splitter in the outside junction box. All the internal phone connections are unchanged and a new, clean connection wire is installed between the splitter and the DSL modem. This is a superior approach, and I wanted it.

The marketing woman didn't know what I was talking about, but said she would find out and get back to me. In the meantime, I did a little Google searching and found where SBC was offering the same DSL Pro service for \$29.99 if you signed up online. I then spent over three hours on the phone to multiple SBC phone numbers to ask what I had to do to get a master splitter. At the first two or three numbers they had no idea what I was talking about. The next knew what I was talking about, but had no idea how to provide the service I was asking for. I was finally transferred to a low level manager in charge of a local DSL installation garage. This female manager knew what I was talking about. Admitted that the master splitter cost about \$35 and the individual filters about \$15. She finally even agreed that it would be a net profit for SBC if I traded in five individual filter/splitters for one master unit. She even intimated that if I wanted to pay \$200 for an installation technician to come to my house, the tech could probably install one. Interspersed in this lengthy conversation, there were at least six times that she protested that her organization was the home installation group and that they didn't install those master units. The business unit might offer them but her home group didn't.

Now, I happen to know that was all bureaucratic BS. I contacted a friend who installed SBC DSL in a small city part of California who confirmed that he installed the master splitter in homes frequently. That the only differences between his business installations and home installations was which hat he wore. That businesses got the commercial grade master splitter as a matter of course and home installations only got it if it was needed or asked for. He was kind enough to send me one of the master units and laughed when I offered to send the individual units back to him. He went on to say that there was a way to beat system and use the bureaucracy to beat the bureaucracy. Namely, one goes ahead and gets the self-installation kit, installs and activates it, wait



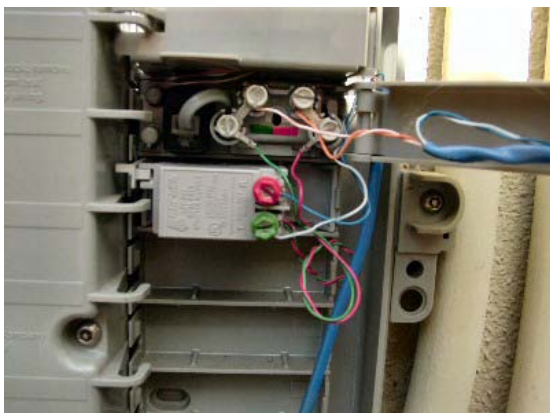
a week, use your buyer's remorse to call SBC and say it just isn't working out and you want to return the system. This will cause the "Save the Sale" part of the bureaucracy to get hold of you and ask what they can do to make you happy. You tell them you want the master splitter installed. More likely than not you will get the \$200 technician to come out and install the splitter for free.

What I found particularly interesting was the installation instructions that came with the master splitter. The splitter is an Antec Keptel product, part number LPF-200 ADSL POTS Splitter. Section 1.02 of the installation instructions states: "The LPF-200 is completely encapsulated for use in outdoor environments within an enclosure and is intended for ease of installation by either the Telephone Company or one of its subscribers." One of its subscribers, that's me and you. I found the instruction sheet to be clear and accurate, the installation itself very easy. The hardest part of the installation is running the new wire for connecting the DSL modem under the house. If you have a house with a slab foundation, running the wire outside the house or through the attic is, by definition, not the second best choice.

My installation is working fine. The DSLReports website has a broadband speed test that shows the DSL Pro connection doing better than the Cable connection that I had before. The URL for the online SBC offer is: http://www02.sbc.com/DSL_new/content_new/1.3435.18.00.html. The current offer is set to expire on June 30, 2005 ■



The outside box and the master splitter installed



The Latest on DVDs

By Bob Elgines, Colorado River Computer Club
Editor, Lake Havasu, AZ

The DVD world is going crazy. The price range is from \$59 to \$130 well within most of our budgets. DVD blanks are down to 50 cents a piece, almost as cheap as CDs. The top four recorder manufacturers are Plextor, Toshiba, Pacific Digital, and Memorex.

Speed is up to 16X, which is max on the outer part of the disk, but only 8X blanks are readily available.

Dual layer (8.5 GB of data space) is labeled as the latest big deal, but is it really? These disks are hard to manufacture and are very expensive. The most important thing is, what will they play in? Well not much of anything. Most DVD players will not recognize the format and neither will your older recorders. So I don't look for this to do anyone much good even in the future.

What is in the future (next year)? The digital world has still been undecided on DVD-R and DVD+R formats, so most of your recorders will do both. Now we come to the future of introducing two new formats named "HD-DVD" and "Blu-ray". These new formats have been developed to use the new blue-laser, where has, they have been using the red-laser in our present recorders. Red laser single level DVDs have 4.7 GB of capacity where the Blue-laser single layer DVDs will have a capacity of 15 (HD-DVD format) to 25 GB (Blu-ray format) at present.

A HD (High Definition) two hour movie uses about 17.4 GB with out max compression. The compression schemes (MPEG-2, MPEG4, etc.) will be the same for both, so there will be no big difference in playback quality. Here we go again, new DVD players will be needed and this reminds us of the old video tape war on formats "Beta" and "VHS". Remember VHS won out due to more recording time and lower costs. Will this be true of the two blue-laser formats? Only time will tell.

These Blue-laser recorders and players will be coming out near the end of this year or the start of next year, but I think we are going to have to wait and see if they can decide on a format for the blue-laser.

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

Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation

By Rick Altman

Subhead: First in a two-part series about the impact of digital photography.

Digital photography is different. Its rise has not been meteoric, but rather sure and steady. And month by month, season by season, holiday by holiday, more and more households have bought into it. Today, most of us view a digital camera as novel but necessary, and only a matter of time before we buy our first one or our next one. It is happening as we watch.

And this could not be a better time to watch, with models becoming better and cheaper on a monthly basis, and print services almost as accessible as service stations for your autos.

Unless you have been living under a rock since 1996, you are familiar with the persistent virtues of going digital with your photos:

It's Way Cheaper: Even though the initial buy-in is a bit higher, your cost for consumables drops through the floor. You will never buy film again, storing photos on media that you can buy online from \$25. Equal to the point, you will never pay for a print of a bad photo.

You Take Better Photos: When it costs you nothing to push the shutter, you do it more often. You know the story about a thousand monkeys pounding on a thousand typewriters and the work of Shakespeare being the result? Dumb luck also prevails over digital photography, as any of us hacks and amateurs can take a decent photo of a scene when we give ourselves a dozen chances.

You Become A Better Photographer: As a decent commercial-grade photographer, I have been taking photos for over two decades. But I never really developed a feel for composition or a solid understanding of the science of photography until five years ago. No matter how many notes I took, I just could not connect what I did five days ago with what I was looking at when the film came back from the lab.

But the immediacy of digital is the best photography teacher you could ever hope for. You see in five seconds, not five days, what happens if you move your subject off-center, how it looks to shift the light source to another angle, how depth of field changes when you change the lens aperture, how shutter speed affects the entire energy flow of a scene that involves motion.

Your Subjects Become Better Models: An unexpected benefit of the digital age is a result of the attention span of the people you photograph. It used to be easy to sit for a photo—

photo session, with multiple photos taken from several angles. Most people can't paste a smile for that long and some will even begin to ignore the photographer. And that is when the really good photos are taken. After the requisite pasted-on-smile shots, when they tire of having their photo taken, expect the best results.

Photos Anywhere

Perhaps the most important development in digital photography is the explosion of outlets that will print your images. We stopped counting at 250 the number of online services available (our favorite is the Kodak Picture Center), and today you can take your little compact flash card or jump drive to Rite-Aid, Longs, Walgreens, Walmart, Costco...and dozens others.

This is significant because the real price savings occur not from your printing photos yourself, but from your sending them out. It is wonderful to be able to make your own prints, no doubt, and you can pick up a good photo printer for next to nothing (or literally nothing if you watch for the incentives offered by Dell, Best Buy, and the other big retailers). But you'll get eaten alive by the cost of the ink and paper if you use your own printer exclusively.

You cannot beat the estimated 35 cents you'll pay for a single 4x6 print (and as low as 15 cents for quantity or promotional offers).

Skeptics look at the ritual of sending digital images out and awaiting

the arrival of prints as being nothing different than the tedium they were hoping to escape with film processing. But there is one huge difference: With digital, you only order prints of the good images, not all of them. You already know if you've taken a winner, and chances are good that you have already emailed it to friends and loved ones, uploaded it to a website, and organized it in your online photo album.

The Cameras are Incredible

The biggest risk with digital photography is that you will go overboard and buy more camera than you need and more cameras than you need.

What a fantastic problem to have!

Today's buy-in for a good all-purpose digital camera is barely \$250. The top-of-the-line model that cost \$800 two years ago can be found for about \$350 today, and digital versions of professional-style single lens reflex models (SLRs, "real" cameras with detachable lenses) are showing up with regularity under \$1,000. We are watching closely the emergence of the "super-zoom" category—cameras that boast 10x and 12x optical zoom ranges. This is the equivalent of a 35 to 400mm zoom lens, all in a standard camera chassis.

These cameras feature the good kind of zoom (optical zoom, not worthless "digital zoom" that is a marketeer's dream and consumer's nightmare) along with special image stabilization technology to help against camera shake. As those prices dip

into the mid-\$400s, we expect them to be gobbled up by vacationers who want to be able to shoot close-ups and landscapes without having to add or swap lenses.

Fix Your Boo-Boos

And then there is the holy grail of digital photography for those adept with image-editing software: the ability to fix, modify, and enhance a photo. We wish that everyone started practicing with an image editor, if for no other reason than to eliminate for good the obnoxious anti-red-eye flash options that turn cameras into migraine-creation machines.

Beyond that, of course, is a treasure trove of opportunity to alter reality for the better, and few have it better than users of Corel software. For one low buy-in, you get graphic-drawing and image-editing applications with CorelDraw, or an incredibly-priced image editor in Paint Shop Pro.

Similarly, creative PowerPoint users will love being able to effortlessly incorporate their own photos into presentations, be it for business or for pleasure—refine a sales pitch that was formerly a collection of boring bullet slides or creating a family keepsake of images, set to music.

The One Blight on the Horizon

We look upon the emergence of mobile phones with built-in cameras with fear, loathing, and blatant snobbery. First off, the cameras are pathetic little toys, capable of producing images no better than first-generation cameras from 1996. Those who form their first impression of digital photography from what they see on their phones are doomed to harbor misconceptions for years.

Worse is the specter of what might happen to the mobile phone industry if camera phones become more common. There are numerous institutions and destinations at which photography is prohibited (court houses, military bases, many airports, museums) and other places where it is morally reprehensible, such as restrooms and locker rooms. If authorities cannot tell the difference between a mobile phone and a camera, they may have no choice but to prohibit them all. Madison Avenue might want to think twice about creating commercials that show someone taking a photo and immediately sending it out via email, all with the same device. They might be killing their golden goose.

All in all, this is a grand time to be a photographer and a digital designer, with technology ready to explode onto the scene, competition among manufacturers driving prices down, and entries forming at so many different price points.

Watch for 2005 to be a banner year for the revolution that we are watching unfold right now.

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<http://www.altman.com>.

Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, a Contributing Editor with PC World and 23 year veteran of PIBMUG. He's also the author of the second edition of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. Check out a sample chapter at http://snurl.com/sample_annoyed2. It's available on Amazon at <http://snurl.com/annoyed2>. ■

NOCCC Proposed Board of Directors

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Snagit 7.2.2

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

The last time that we reviewed TechSmith's Snagit was in the November 2002 issue of Orange Bytes. Both Jim Sanders and Lloyd Mizer gave high marks to version 6.1 of this screen-capture utility that offered capabilities well beyond the basics needed to copy/print images and text from the computer screen (i.e., the built-in Windows Print Screen feature).



If you press the Print Screen (PrntScr) key of your keyboard, the entire display on the monitor is captured and saved in Windows' Clipboard. Likewise, if you press Alt + PrntScr, only the active window part of your display is sent to the Clipboard. Then you can "paste" the Clipboard image into a graphics program or even a word processor. However, if you need to edit the image, in most cases it is much simpler to use a feature-rich utility like Snagit instead of the Windows screenshot capability.

In an excellent review by Matthew Ellison for the WritersUA 2005 Conference, he compared Snagit 7.2 with four other screen-capture programs: <http://www.winwriters.com/articles/capturetools/index.html> and stated that Snagit is "... probably the most full-featured of the capture tools reviewed" and "... it's also very easy to use thanks to a well-designed interface and workflow." Matthew included a nice introduction on the use of screen-capture utilities which I recommend to those of you who are unfamiliar with them.

The current version of Snagit, 7.2, is significantly improved over version 6. It is even more user friendly and has a working screen that makes it much easier to choose from among the many options that the program offers as shown in Figure 1. But, if you are a previous user and like the classic interface, you can switch to it. A listing of all the new features can be viewed at: <http://www.techsmith.com/products/snagit/whatsnew.asp>.

Snagit offers a huge number of capture options in terms of area to be captured, output of selection, and available filters (color, image resolution/size, edge effects, etc.) It also provides a text editor and a not-so-shabby image editor. In addition, there are "add-ins," (mini tool bars) for making screen capture available from within a number of popular programs. For example, Snagit makes Web capturing a breeze by integrating into my Internet Explorer browser. Figure 2 was captured from the TechSmith web site. (Snagit also will work from within Firefox according to TechSmith.) In addition, it works seamlessly from within Windows Explorer, all of the programs of the Microsoft

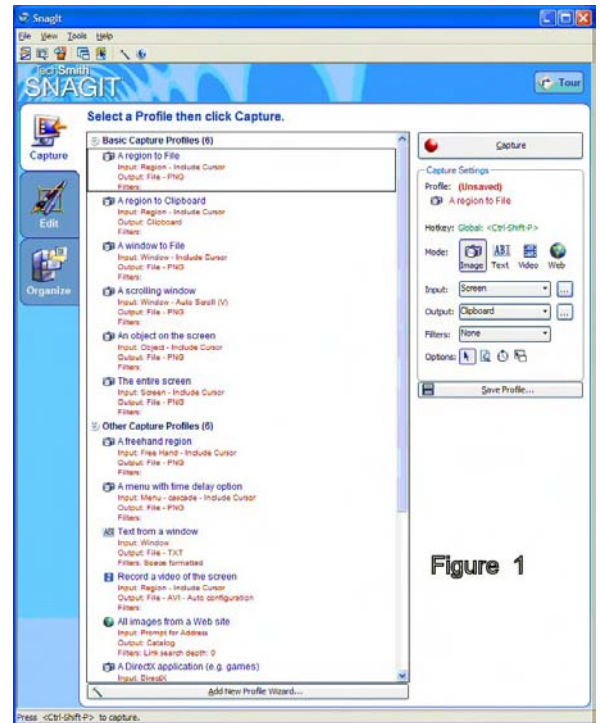
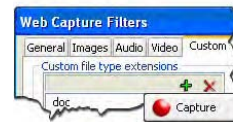


Figure 1

Capturing All File Types from the Web



Snagit now allows you to capture any graphic, audio or video file from the Web. You can even enter other file extensions to capture files, such as Word documents, PowerPoint Presentations, Excel spreadsheets and more.

Figure 2

Office suite, and Adobe FrameMaker

System requirements for Snagit include a Windows operating system (98, Me, 2000, NT 4, or XP), a 90-MHz processor (400 MHz is recommended), 16 MB RAM, 20 MB free hard disk space (30 MB is needed if you add the video tutorials), and Internet Explorer 5.5 or later. My system is a 3.2 GHz Pentium IV Dell Dimension with Windows XP and Internet Explorer 6.

Installation from the CD was a no-brainer and the opening video "Tour" nicely covered all of the program's features. Also, the built-in Help system is one of the better ones around and is nicely supplemented by white papers, tutorials, and other help aids at the TechSmith web site.

You can download Snagit 7.2 from the vendor's web site for \$40 or order it on a CD. It is available from a number of Internet vendors for less, but you may not get the most current version. TechSmith offers a 30-day trial if you prefer to "try-before-you-buy."

I highly recommend Snagit 7.2 to all PC users, regardless of their capability level. It is easy to install, set up, learn, and run. And it can significantly improve your productivity for many computer tasks. ■

The diNovo Cordless Desktop by Logitech

By Ken Wood, NOCCC



The diNovo Cordless Desktop, by Logitech (<http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/products/details/US/EN,CRID=2162,CONTENTID=9575>) is a keyboard and mouse set designed for desktop and laptop use. It has a very thin design, which makes it very easy to carry around and takes up very little desktop space. The main set consists of a separate keyboard/ keypad and a mouse along with a receiver for the wireless signals.

The keypad has several features such as media controls (volume, pause, play, etc.) as well as time, date, temperature, and an LCD screen so it can be used separately from a desktop or laptop. The Keyboard, though slightly heavier due to batteries, is very thin and takes up very little space. It also has the media controls as well as buttons for homepage, mail, and search. There is an f-key option on the keyboard for many more easy access tools. The mouse is very simple and has a standard left/right mouse button as well a scroll wheel. It also has an on/off switch at the bottom making it very easy to conserve batteries. The receiver is very small, about the size of a USB flash drive, and it still takes up little space when on the desktop stand.

The box contains a keyboard, numeric pad, mouse, USB receiver, receiver stand, carrying cases, software, 6AA batteries, and a quick-start guide. The price from Logitech is \$150 and the price on Pricegrabber.com ranged from \$124-150. It is also available at the usual computer stores. There is a 5-year limited warranty on the product.

System requirements are a PC with an available USB port and a CD-ROM drive with a Windows 2000 or XP operating system.

The installation process is very simple and easy:

- 1) attach the receiver to the USB port
- 2) press connect on the receiver
- 3) press connect on the keyboard, mouse or numeric pad
- 4) repeat steps 2 and 3 for the other two pieces

The product came with a CD with MediaLife and software to change the product settings and use many of the features. I also found that there was very good product support. Their

product support website (<http://logitech-en-amr.custhelp.com>) has a search, FAQ, and categories with pictures.

Overall, I found that the Logitech diNovo Cordless Desktop is very useful in many situations and is suitable for laptops and desktops. I would recommend this product for anyone because of its versatility and ease of use. ■

Editors Note: Unfortunately, neither this review, nor the Logitech website, provide the reader with a good feel for the many virtues of this product that help justify the significant price. The Setpoint software that comes with the unit allows you to program various keys to enhance the ease with which you can use your computer. For instance; many of your commonly used programs can be launched by tapping one key. Instant sound muting and volume up/down control on the keyboard sure beats trying to find and use the controls on the screen. Not even mentioned is the standalone calculator built into the keypad. Which, when a calculation on the keypad is totaled, places the results on the clipboard, which can then be pasted into the application you are currently using.

Linux Application Development

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

The official description is “Linux Application Development, Second Edition, and it is the definitive reference for Linux programmers at all levels of experience, including C programmers moving from other operating systems. Building on their widely praised first edition, leading Linux Programmers Michael Johnson and Erik Troan systematically present the key APIs and techniques you need to create robust, secure, efficient software or to port existing code to Linux.”



The Table of Contents:

Part 1 - Getting Started - History Of Linux Development; Licenses And Copyright; Online System Documentation

Part 2 - Development Tools and Environment - Development Tools; GCC Options and Extensions; The GNU C Library; Memory Debugging Tools; Creating and Using Libraries; Linux System Environment

Part 3 - System Programming - The Process Model; Simple File Handling; Signal Processing; Advanced File Handling; Directory Operations; Job Control; Terminals and Pseudo Terminals; Networking with Sockets; Time; Random Numbers; Programming Virtual Consoles; The Linux Console; Writing Secure Programs

Part 4 - Development Libraries - String Matching; Terminal

Continued on page 12

Handling With S-Lang; A Hashed Database Library; Parsing Command-Line Options; Dynamic Loading At Run Time; User Identification and Authentication

The authors are both kernel developers for Red Hat and Specifix (a Linux distribution created by a San Jose company of Linux developers). Michael K. Johnson teaches application development and works on projects like GNOME. Eric Troan is the cofounder and executive VP of Specifix and used to be a VP of Red Hat.

The book is sometimes referred to as intermediate to advanced, but it is very helpful to someone who just wants to be a Linux programmer. To understand the book, you need to already know C/C++.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part skims over non-programming topics that developers need to know about such as Linux licensing and documentation.

Next the book goes into development and debugging tools like Kdevelop, Eclipse, GCC, GDB, MPR, Valgrind, and Electric Fence. While there is a very good explanation of command line tools, it goes only partly into the GUIs.

Finally, the last two parts cover actual programming in tremendous depth. Everything from process control to file handling and socket programming.

One item that seems to haunt Linux programming books is typos and grammar. I didn't notice anything here. Well, maybe I'm not the best judge since I'm not a good proofreader and I don't have impeccable grammar.

There were some complaints about the first edition that the second edition fixed. The only problem I saw that persisted is that it focuses too much on command line programming and almost completely ignores the GUI. Command line programs may be a good introduction to system Programming, but too much only makes the book look like an obsolete set of archaic instructions. More diversity would be helpful here. Since one of the authors actually is involved in creating a GUI desktop, I would think it wouldn't be a problem.

In a review on the UKUUG (United Kingdom Unix and Open Source Users Group) web site, "[this] is a no-nonsense book, dour in appearance whose thread is not detracted by petty political feuds, and images of cute, fat seabirds, precisely aimed at those people who want to program."

Another review from "Library Journal" said that "This book will appeal to beginning programmers trying to understand how operating systems work in a general way as well as to advanced programmers porting software from UNIX systems to Linux."

I found the examples to be a tremendous help. While most books don't have much more than a "hello world" program, this used real world problems as examples. As you go through the book, you create programs like a simple shell (to Window programmers, a command-line) and a TFTP server/client (a small copy program that works over a network). Most chapters in the 3rd part of the book adds capabilities to the shell- like job con-

trol and threads.

A benefit that nobody mentioned is that this book really helps you understand the use of Linux and why there is a difference between Linux and Windows. For example, why is it that shuffling permissions around is necessary and why is it easier in Linux?

So, if you know C/C++ or use Linux, this is definitely a good book to have around. If you program in the Linux kernel, the book is a must. You might also want a book that goes into GUI programming like "GTK+/Gnome Application Development" by Havoc Pennington. Also, if you want to learn more about the authors, don't do what I did and search for "Michael Johnson." Publisher: Addison Wesley, Pearson Education

Authors: Michael K. Johnson & Erik W. Troan

ISBN: 0-321-21914-7

Date published: November 2004

Number of pages: 643

List price \$50. Some other retail prices: Amazon- new: \$36, Amazon- used: \$17, Barnes and Noble: new \$40 (\$36 for members). At the time of this writing there was one on eBay for \$5. ■

Open Source Security Tools: A Practical Guide to Security Applications

By *Jim DuWaldt, NOCCC*

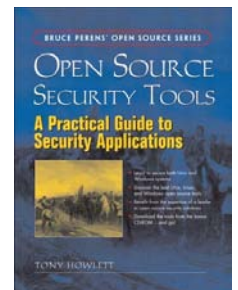
Tony Howlett, the book's author, is President of Network Security Services and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and GIAC Systems and Network Auditor (GNSA). He has fourteen years of experience and is a frequent speaker on computer security and technology topics.

The stated objective of this book is to provide knowledge about security in general and Open Source tools for security in particular. It attempts to provide equivalent tools across Linux, BSD, and Windows.

The book consists of largely stand-alone chapters on various classes of tools and in the process introduces 40-odd tools with not only the location to download it but also information on the mailing lists that support it such as development lists, announcement-only lists, and users lists.

As promised, almost all of these are open source but he also includes Open Source tools with commercial versions, in particular the Smoothwall firewall.

The spectrum of the tools presented is fulsome: in approximate order they include the programs for hardening the system(s) the tools themselves they will reside on (Bastille



Logitech QuickCam Communicate

for Linux and references to the NSA advisories for securing Windows), firewalls (Turtle and Smoothwall), port scanners (Nmap and Nlog), vulnerability scanners (Nessus and Snmpwalk), network sniffers (Tcpdump, WinDump, and Ethereal), intrusion detection systems (Snort and Tripwire), analysis and management tools (Swatch and ACID), encryption tools (PGP and GnuGP), wireless tools (NetStumbler, StumbVerter, Kismet and AirSnort), and (heaven forbid someone should break past all of these) forensic tools (Fport, Isof, Sleuth Kit, and the Autopsy Forensic Browser).

The book is not limited to describing how to run the tools themselves. Howlett discusses the importance of beginning with a secure system as a platform for deployment, the proper placement of each tool such as using port scanners outside and inside your networks firewall, the limitations of firewalls themselves (“crunchy on the outside, chewy on the inside”), and how you should handle the initial torrent of data from programs like Intrusion Detection Systems.

His introduction to IP tables is very useful by giving you enough information to derive rules such as allowing one machine to be accessed by, for example, pcAnywhere while preventing access to any other machine. One minor point is that he does not point out that if you are going to use IP tables to redirect ports to a particular machine then that target machine needs to have a static IP address or the next DHCP lease will either leave the redirected port with nowhere to go or it will be redirected to an entirely different machine!

He also warns about the impact of using these tools, particularly port scanners, on network users and some of the legalities of using such tools.

As I mentioned before the chapters are largely stand alone, but some of them build upon the other: using Nmap, Nessus, and Snort to collect an avalanche of information and then using ACID and Swatch to wade through it, separating the unusual signatures that need attention from the typical traffic.

My only complaints are that the wireless chapter is probably outdated by now but that’s the way it goes with rapidly-evolving technology (especially when wireless security (particularly WEP) was worthless to begin with) and that the Table of Contents looks like someone simply forgot to format it before the book went to press. This is doubly strange because the rest of the text is just fine.

These flaws are minor: I wholeheartedly recommend this book because its broad coverage of security tools and techniques make it an excellent hands-on introduction to the topic and will allow the diligent reader to prepare for what comes storming at us next.

Prentice Hall Professional Technical Reference is the publisher (<http://www.phptr.com/perens>). A CD ROM is included, but they give you the addresses anyway that you need to get the latest SW off the Web. ISBN #0-321-19443-8; MSRP=\$50, Amazon=\$36, PriceGrabber=\$24. ■

By Cathy Shimosono, NOCCC

“Why just type when you can smile, laugh, and make faces? The QuickCam Communicate makes it incredibly easy to communicate over the Internet with video and audio. Just install the software, plug in the webcam to your USB port, and start communicating with friends and family. Here is just some of what you can do with the QuickCam Communicate:



1. Make live video calls to family.

The next best thing to being there in person. Now you can make two-way real-time video calls. With the built-in microphone, it’s easy to see and hear loved ones miles away.

2. Add video instant messages.

Video-chat with one click using MSN® Messenger, AIM®/AOL® Instant Messenger™ (AIM), Yahoo!® Messenger, or Windows® Messenger (on XP). It’s easy, fun, and far more personal than ordinary text messaging.

3. Instantly attach photos and video to email.

It only takes one click to attach and send a photo or video. Just shoot and click. No downloading.

4. Set up your own webcam.

You can automatically capture and update images to your website every few seconds.”

I wanted a video camera to enable me to video conference my granddaughter, Lauren. I tried three different cameras since last June. None solved both my problems. I have DSL and I wanted to see my granddaughter - not a grainy ghost. The technology was out there - but where? All I wanted was to video conference with my granddaughter.

I was about to give up when I discovered it. The Logitech QuickCam Communicate. Was I ever surprised! The Logitech QuickCam Communicate was amazing! The picture was absolutely breathtaking! No more grainy ghosts for me. The setup was easy, the movements were smooth, and the voices were clear. Now, when Lauren says “Look, Grammy,” I can actually look! Since she moved to Maine, I have missed her so much! But now we can be in the same room anytime!

The Logitech QuickCam Communicate is so simple to use. It took me 5 minutes to set up. If you know what you are doing it will only take you 2. Logitech QuickCam Communicate comes with access to MAN® Messenger, AIM®/AOL® Instant Messenger™ (AIM), Yahoo!® Messenger, or Windows® Messenger (on UP) and it works on USB!

I am having a ball playing with my new toy and must admit I

Continued on next page

Logitech Quickam CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

had help setting it up. My friend, Moen, plugged it in for me. He was so impressed with my Logitech QuickCam Communicate, he ran right out and acquired one for himself - and he loves it too. I can not tell you how much fun Logitech QuickCam Communicate is. You will have to discover it yourself. But know this: If I can set something up and run it - it must of necessity be extremely WYSIWYG.

For \$39.95 you can purchase Logitech QuickCam Communicate from Logitech at <http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/products/productlist/US/EN,CRID=20,ad=g03> without the microphone headset. But I suggest you spend \$10 extra dollars and get the Logitech QuickCam Communicate with microphone headset. Don't settle for half the fun when you can have it all! ■

Sams Teach Yourself Java 2 in 24 Hours, 3rd Edition

By Bill Allen, NOCCC

This book was published in 2003, meaning it might have been written as long ago as three years. In the world of Java that means current Java components needed for compiling and running programs may have been modified to later uncovered versions. Nevertheless, the book's programs all seem to run with JCreator, a free integrated Development Environment (IDE) from Xinox Software at <http://www.jcreator.com/>.

In following the book's directions before running any of the programs the user must download the Sun Microsystems Java 2 Software Development Kit (SDK) from: <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/download.html>. The SDK includes a compiler, interpreter, debugger, etc., but is not an IDE. However there are a number of free full featured editors and IDEs for Java. A far nicer editor for Java than the Windows Notepad is JEdit from <http://www.jedit.org/>. BlueJ is an excellent IDE available at: <http://www.jedit.org/>. That website identifies four different books based on using BlueJ to learn Java.

Sun Microsystems also provides its NetBeans IDE free of charge at <http://www.netbeans.org/kb/using-netbeans/40/>. A more elaborate IDE for Java, as well as for C++ and other languages, is Eclipse available at: <http://www.eclipse.org/>. The IDE used for this report on "Sams Teach Yourself Java 2 In 24

Hours" software is JCreator downloaded from <http://www.tucows.com/preview/225075.html>. It should be kept in mind that the Java programming language as well as all the above available editors, IDEs, and such, are free to be downloaded by any and all users.

In identifying and downloading Sun's Java 2 SDK a tyro programmer may find it necessary to become familiarized with the Sun website beforehand. It can be easy to inadvertently download a program other than the Java 2 SDK package since the site is apparently directed toward experienced programmers. Fortunately, the Sams book has an appendix giving detailed procedures for identifying, downloading, and installing the Java 2 SDK.

The book's instruction for completing the Java 2 SDK installation requires the user to make modifications to the Windows operating system environment using the SYSEDIT program. That requires working with DOS commands? The may be needed to redirect the Windows Command Prompt window to the folder containing the Java 2 SDK files to get your Java files to run. Or you can use JCreator instead, as did this reviewer, to get on with learning Java instead of taking a DOS commands memory test.

That said, the detailed instructions on installing free Java Software Development Kit are included in appendix B of the book. The book spells out the required modifications to PATH and CLASS in the Windows environment using DOS commands in a Command Prompt window.

The reader is first led through the writing, compiling, running, and interpreting of both a "Hello World" application and a "Hello World" applet, with the applet requiring an HTML script to call the applet for display in a web browser. However, the book could be more explicit in defining and illustrating many Java unique terms such as CLASS, VOID, PUBLIC, etc. Gradually the reader will intuit a vague notion of the meanings of such terms but explicit definitions would be preferable.

The book seems to cover little on the peculiarities of Java itself, concentrating instead on the many programming language common functions such as loops, conditionals, variable typing, etc. Nevertheless, the reader may find it handy to download all the book's example source files from: <http://www.cadenhead.org/book/java24hours/>, rather than spend time debugging their own typographical errors. The book, like the Java language website itself, appears to be aimed at a reader with some programming experience before starting Java. That is interesting since the Java language is planned be used for advanced placement testing for college computer programming classes.

The book is beneficial in alerting one to all the free material available for computer programming in Java. The biggest expense for a new Java programmer may be the book itself in learning the Java language. All else appears to be free. In learning the unique features and key words of Java there are at least two useful websites. The first is the Java Language Specification Second Edition at:

http://java.sun.com/docs/books/jls/second_edition/html/



jTOC.doc.html. The other Java learning aid is: The Really Big Index at: <http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/reallybigindex.html>. While using “Teach Yourself Java 2 in 24 Hours” may greatly assist in learning the language, it won’t be the cheapest approach.

This evaluation was conducted using a PC with Windows XP, 2.5GHz CPU, 512 MB RAM, 40 GB hard drive, and cable modem for Internet access.

The list price of the book is \$25 and it is available for less from the usual on-line sources. Sams Publishing is affiliated with Pearson Education. ■

ZoneAlarm Security Suite

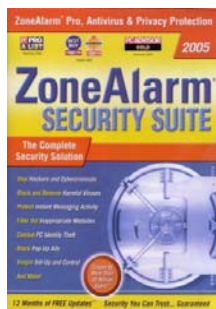
Broderbund/Encore/Zone Labs Boxed Edition

By John Donan, NOCCC

ZoneAlarm Security Suite comes as a boxed CD (an 11MB download also can be had from Zone Labs <http://www.zonelabs.com/store/application>) or Broderbund (<http://www.broderbund.com/jump.jsp?itemType=CATEGORY&itemID=39>). When you install, the program asks for your Internet connection method and some usage information including whether you’re part of a network and already use antivirus software. This establishes an initial configuration which can be tweaked later if necessary.

I had been using the ZoneAlarm Free Download for a number of years and it has served as an excellent firewall, overseeing data transfers both in and out of my computer. The new Security Suite has additional capability all of which may be more than some of us will use. The suite contains Antivirus, Identity Theft and Privacy protection, Ad and Popup blocking, Anti-Phishing Protection and Spam Blocking, Instant Message Security, Web Site Filtering and Automatic Wireless Network Configuration. Having met the minimum system requirements for this “Broderbund” boxed version, which are Windows 98SE or greater 233MHz Pentium-class processor or greater 128MB of Ram 20MB of hard disk space and a 4X CD Rom, I proceeded to load the CD - - - It wouldn’t load!

I was first disappointed with the help available. The box carries a Broderbund logo but help from Broderbund is available only to those who purchased the software from Broderbund directly. For the retail version in the box, there is a LD phone number (extra long wait) for Encore’s Customer service. This appears to be the place to request activation codes which are handled by email. A follow-up call did avail to me two very important phone numbers. They are Zone Labs Tech Support at 877-365-9663 and Zone Labs Customer Service at 877-966-



5221, both are in North Dakota. The support persons I dealt with were very helpful, friendly, and courteous.

Tech Support waived their three bucks a minute charge while helping me get up and running. What had happened was due to wrong information presented in the Quick Start Guide written by Broderbund which said, “If you are upgrading from a previous version of another ZoneAlarm product you can install ZoneAlarm Security Suite without uninstalling the previous version.” My ZoneAlarm Free Download did have to be uninstalled. After doing this, the installation was smooth and simple. I am not at this time using the antivirus feature. I am letting my non-rebate-paying Norton Antivirus expire before switching over to ZoneAlarm; however, ZoneAlarm does keep me posted when my Norton is out of date.

The email junk and virus monitoring is restricted to those using Microsoft Outlook, and therefore, is of no use to those of us who prefer Eudora as our email software. Another unused component for me is the web filtering, parental control as there are no children in our household.

The feature I now most appreciate became very apparent when I was browsing web pages on another computer. It is the Privacy Advisor. A small window does pop up with an alert whenever it blocks a third-party cookie or other potential privacy infringements. As there are very few websites that don’t use any of these technologies to some extent, this particular alert can become mildly irritating. But, what a relief to have those flashing and moving advertisements eliminated. This alone makes the program a value to me.

A notification appears when updates are available. I have had a number of these for the boxed software is version 5.0 and the updates have gone beyond 5.5 (now at 5.5.094).

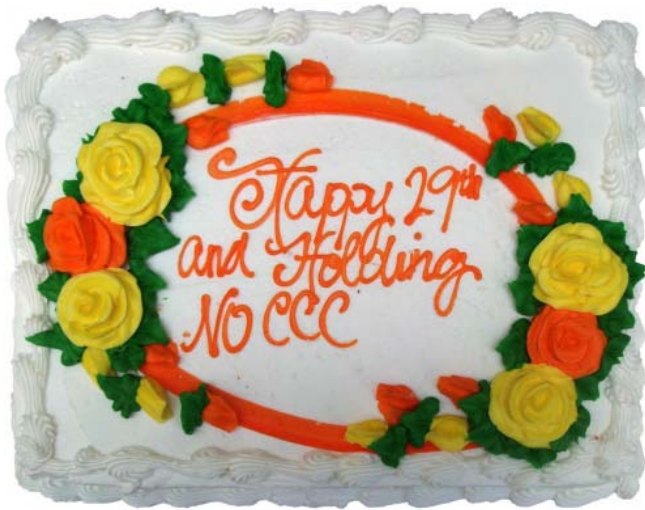
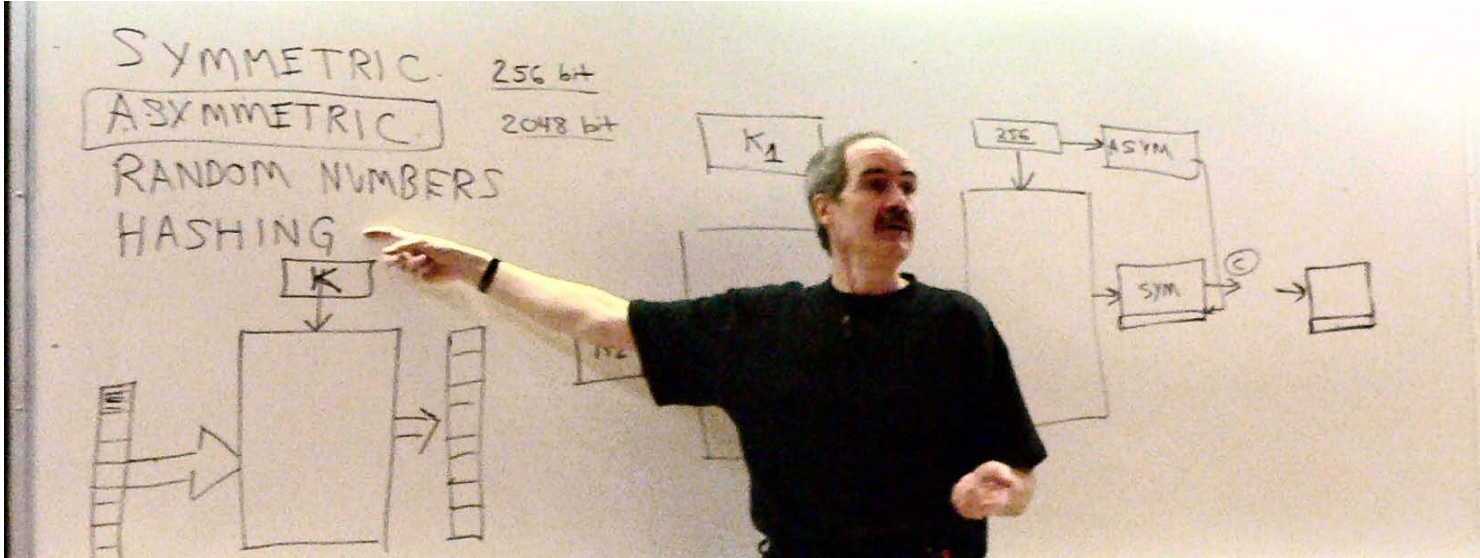
There is a \$30 rebate on the box and when on sale the resultant cost is close to \$30. I have noted this to be the case on the Internet and for sales at local retail outlets. This beats anything I have ever realized from any of the major antivirus software manufacturers and the relief from web page annoyances is worth thirty bucks to me.

Review Editor’s Notes: This security software suite received PC Magazine’s Editors’ Choice award in the Feb. 22, 2005 issue with the comment “... stands alone as our choice for complete security.” Zone Labs has been acquired by Check Point. The MSRP=\$70. ■



Just some members in the audience

May Photos



We are almost three decades old

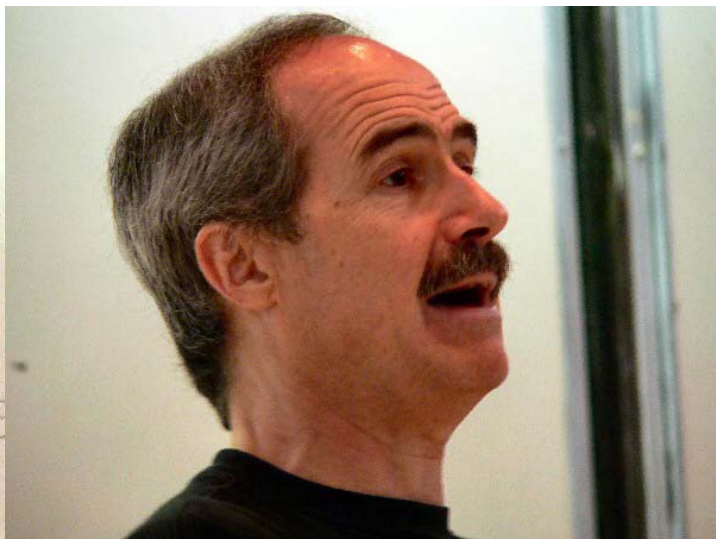
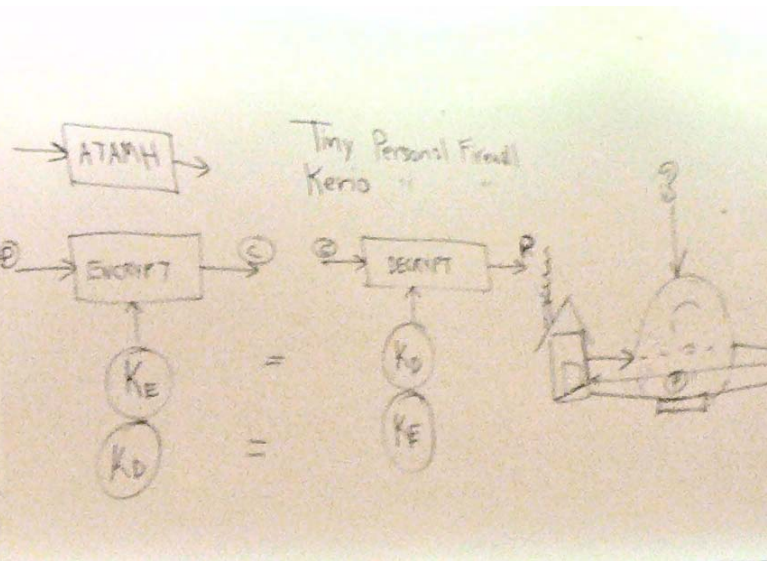


Greg Rager led another great Digital Image SIG session

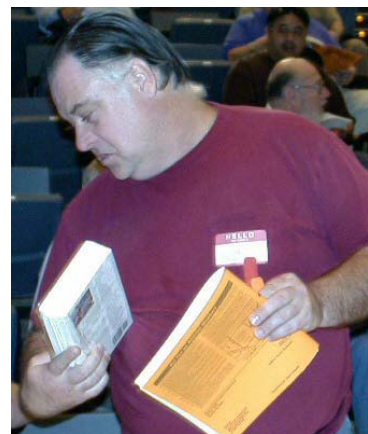
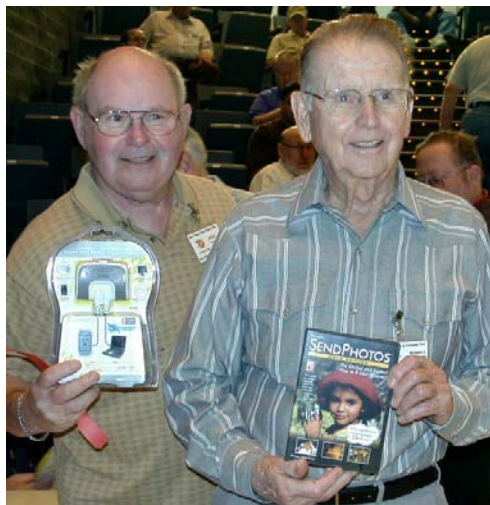


Photography by Jim Sanders & George Margolin





Steve Gibson once again taught us a lot



The raffle prizes

PaperPort 10 Professional

By: *Elise M. Edgell, NOCCC*

In 2003, I wrote a review of ScanSoft's PaperPort 9, which I enjoyed writing because I had been a PaperPort fan for many years. When I recently had a chance to review PaperPort 10 Professional, I initially declined. I thought that it would be nice to give someone else a chance to review the product. Leonard Prince, who volunteered to do the review, had had no prior experience with PaperPort. He wanted to use PaperPort to scan a file drawer full of old tax returns. He did write a review but was unsatisfied with the software and asked me to do the review.

I mistakenly assumed that it would be very easy to do. I installed PaperPort 10 Professional on my computer running Windows XP Professional with SP2 installed. My system is using an AMD 2600+ and 512 Meg of RAM. This is a working system with lots of software installed. I do not attempt to install a review copy of software on a virgin system because I think that is unrealistic. (In the real world people buy new software and install it on the computer which they are using every day.) I may have run into some difficulty because of this policy.

I decided to go ahead and activate PaperPort because not all of the features are accessible without activation. I had no difficulty in activating it, unlike the prior reviewer who wrote, "The activation consisted of copying a sixty-four character alpha numerical code on paper and retyping it in to a window. The first try failed because it claimed it was the wrong activation number. The second try failed because the sixty-four character activation changed. On the third try I printed the site page out and it finally decided to activate."

Initially PaperPort kept losing the scanner. After a lot of time and searching on the Internet for a possible solution to the problem (both the ScanSoft site and many other sites, which indicated that other users had a similar problem), I determined that the USB hub connecting my scanner to the computer was defective.

First, I will give my thoughts about the problems that Mr. Prince had in learning to use PaperPort. He wrote, "I found the material hard to read. Partly because I have never undertaken such a project. Partly because the jargon used was confusing. The 'Items' making a set integrated into a PDF are either 'image' or 'text' items. Further the items can be 'editable' or 'searchable.'"

I already had an image in my mind of how PaperPort works. When the program first comes up it is in the "Desktop" mode. This shows thumbnails of the things scanned on the right side



of the screen. There is a "Pane" on the left side of the screen which initially shows the "Folders" available in Paperport. The Pane can be changed to display different information. When I scan a document, the Pane shows information about scanning. This version of PaperPort also lets you display "Thumbnails" of the "Items" on the Desktop in the Pane similar to Adobe Acrobat Reader.

I know that when I scan a page of text or a photo, the image is placed on the PaperPort "Desktop." The only reason that I had really paid any attention to the terminology "Item" is that when I would switch to the "Page View" mode the toolbar used the terminology "Item" to indicate a single item on the Desktop or a stacked Item. When more than one scanned image is stacked on top of another, I think of it as a stack of pages. In the Page Viewer mode I can then "Page" through the stack "Item."

I thought that it would be easy for me to understand PaperPort's user information. After carefully reviewing the User Guide and Help, I can see where confusion with the terminology can occur. I think that ScanSoft would be well advised to write a tutorial for new users who are totally unfamiliar with the concepts used in PaperPort. Screen shots of the PaperPort Desktop with the different features named would be helpful. Tutorial help on the ScanSoft web site would be appreciated. If ScanSoft had web support more on the line of Microsoft's, I think that it would go a long way towards establishing proficient, loyal users.

Users hesitate to ask ScanSoft for help because of their pricey support structure. The support policy is as follows: No postal or Fax request; Email is \$9.95 per incident; telephone call is \$19.95 per incident; and telephone, scanner or camera problems: \$39.95 per incident. But, please note that **"End users receive one phone incident at no charge."**

After a somewhat bumpy start, I was able to try out the other features of the program. First I checked out the Web Capture program which was included with PaperPort. I was unable to get this feature to work. I finally figured out that it does not work with the Mozilla Firefox web browser. I did find reference to the fact that it does not work with Netscape but no mention of Firefox. Since PaperPort lets you "Print to a PDF file" it really isn't necessary to use the Web Capture.

The prior reviewer wanted to scan several years' worth of income tax returns. He had difficulty in deciphering the distinctions in the different types of scans that are possible with PaperPort. It is possible to scan into the MAX format (which is the original PaperPort format) or into one of several types of PDF formats (yes, there is more than one type of PDF file). Further confusion came about because he had the idea that PaperPort did not have native OCR abilities (which it does). He finally determined that it was going to take more time than he was willing to devote to the project to turn his drawers full of paper into digital format.

I had a more realistic use of PaperPort. I use it to keep a record of many transactions. Every time I make a bank deposit, I scan the deposit slip and each check. My habit is to name each page with the name of the maker and the check number. When I scanned my next bank deposit, I ended up with an "Item" on the desktop which consisted of several pages. I then went to "Properties" and found the place where I could name the Item. It just did not work

the same way as in the prior versions of PaperPort. I would name the Pages in the Item and the names would change. If I unstacked the Pages and then named them, the names were lost when I stacked them again. I checked the Message Boards on the Internet and learned that ScanSoft has decided to change its naming system to match Adobe's PDF convention. This really upsets me because I can no longer use the program easily for the tasks in the way that I want to use it. I wish they had left the naming method as an Option for the end user. After this article is complete, I will uninstall PaperPort 10 and go back to PaperPort 9.

One of the new features of PaperPort 10 is the Split Desktop. This is a mode that allows you to have 2 folders open at once. Documents can be dragged from one Desktop to the other. This can be a very useful feature if you are putting together a multi-paged document.

One advantage in PaperPort is that it will let you look at "thumbnails" and "Page Views" of many different types of files including Word files, Excel files, image files, PDF files, and MAX files. Frequently I want to look at different types of files without going from program to program to look at the files. Once the subdirectories that contain the files are in the PaperPort's list of directories I can look at the files in PaperPort. I used to use a program called Quick View or Key View for this purpose, but since I installed Windows XP I no longer have either installed on my computer.

ScanSoft finally came out with a service pack (15 MEG's worth). (There is a long list of problems which were fixed; see: <http://knowledgebase.scansoft.com/view.asp?tnID=6271>.) I installed it. There is one problem that I had noticed that it did fix (when I selected more than 2 items on the desktop to rotate at the same time, the program would only rotate 2).

I found another couple of problems that it did not fix. If I have a document open in Word and I go to the same subdirectory in PaperPort, it causes Word to terminate. The second problem is that frequently when I print a document, I want to insert the file name including the path. If PaperPort is open to the subdirectory that I am using with Word, the path is garbled. I think that both of these problems are serious. It takes away from the possibility of using PaperPort to navigate my computer, find a file, edit it, print it, and not have to worry that I am going to be unexpectedly having a program close or other functions not work properly. I am not sure if this is a PaperPort problem or unique to my computer setup.

PaperPort 10 Professional has many useful features which I have not tested. I do not have a way to test the ADF (Automatic Document Feeder) features since my scanner does not have this feature. Before purchasing the program, it is important that you check with ScanSoft to see which scanners they support. My scanner, Epson Perfection 1640 SU, is not on their list but does work with PaperPort. Caution: some scanners will not work with PaperPort even if they have a Twain driver. According to the Visioneer Web site <http://www.visioneer-europe.com/support/strobepro.htm#strobe>, the Visioneer Strobe Pro scanner is not supported by PaperPort. It appears that there is no Windows XP driver available for this scanner. This is unfortunate since I was considering purchasing one to replace the old 8-bit Visioneer sheet fed scanner which fits so nicely between the keyboard and monitor. For old-time users of PaperPort, this is very disturbing since PaperPort was originally owned by Visioneer and the scanners would

only work with PaperPort.

I am not aware of any one other program that has the same functionality as PaperPort. There are individual programs that each do a part of what PaperPort does. Adobe Acrobat may even get to the point where it will give PaperPort some competition.

I am cautious about recommending the program at this time. I have been revising this review each time I found a new problem, a possible solution to a problem, and what the installation of the Service Pack did and did not correct. If you really, really, need any of the features that are unique to PaperPort 10 Professional, then it is potentially a good program (when all the bugs are worked out).

Otherwise, stay with PaperPort 9. If you do not already own a copy of PaperPort and are considering a purchase to turn your office into a paperless office, be sure that you take into account how long it takes to scan a document. If you have the money to afford a high speed sheet fed scanner (one which will not jam easily even if the pages are not in pristine condition), then turning old paper files into digital documents or images may be just the thing for you. If you already own a scanner, be sure that it is on ScanSoft's list of supported scanners.

Minimum requirements are: Win 98(SE), ME, 2000(SP4 or above), XP (SP1 or above), 128 MB minimum, 256 MB recommended, 150 MB free disk space, IE 5.5 or above, CDROM, SVGA 800 x 600. Cost: List \$199.99, Upgrade \$149.99, street price from \$180, upgrade from \$118. It is available in many retail stores. ■

Encarta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

line Math Homework Helper (with a free subscription through Oct. 2005), and an Encarta Search Bar (on the screen's Task Bar) to speed searches and word look-ups. I was so impressed with Encarta that I got a copy for my 12-year old grandson and his school-teacher mom.

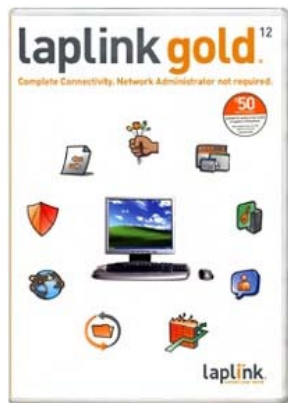
Encarta has a number of nifty features that are especially useful for young people or those with visual or hearing impairments. You can have text read out loud through your PC's speakers or a headset (but, the voice is mechanical; in comparison, the spoken word Dictionary feature sounds like a real person) and you can turn on "closed captions" for audio clips. (I can't enjoy the TV without this aid.) In addition, there is the Web-like opening screen with its forward and back buttons, etc, sidebars and handy search bar, and automatic (weekly) updates. For example, from May 5-18, over 2,000 new & updated articles/Web links/tables were added. There is so much more to like about Encarta – you should visit the Microsoft web site for additional information: <http://encarta.msn.com/home.aspx>.

One final note, Encarta carries a list price of \$70 less a \$20 mail-in rebate for the DVD or 5-CD versions. Several on-line sellers offer it for \$35. If you order it from Costco, your final cost will only be \$20 (plus S&H/sales tax). At these prices it is a steal and I highly recommend it! If you have a previous version, it may still be worthwhile to upgrade, considering the new features. Even if you don't use it for schooling or work, you can enjoy Encarta for the fun and pleasure of gaining knowledge that it offers. ■

Laplink Gold 12

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Laplink dates back to the early days of MSDOS and easily fit on one floppy disk then. The early DOS versions included a Hydra serial cable and a parallel cable. The serial cable is a “null modem” cable and both are what is now more commonly referred to as crossover cables. The Hydra label came from the fact that each end of the cable had two heads or connectors, a DB9 and a DB25. This was at a time when nearly all mice were serial mice and a lot of them came with a DB25 connector and it was a major pain to change which port the mouse was on. Being able to use whichever port was available on both ends, regardless of which connector type was available, made life a lot easier. The built-in data compression sped up transfers significantly, and was really appreciated when the remote machine was connected by a slow dial-up modem. The side by side, source and destination windows made selecting and manipulating files pretty easy. Overall, a vital program to have in your utilities tool box.



The current version of Laplink still has all of the above connection capabilities and features plus many others, but the cables are usually an extra cost option. On the hardware side, we now have USB and Ethernet capability for local machine to machine connections that are capable of file manipulation/transfer functions and full remote control. The USB option requires a special cable with an electronics module in the middle. This review copy is referred to as the physical package and includes the USB 2.0 cable. The Ethernet option can be as simple and cheap as a crossover cable or a bit more complex using a Hub, a Switch or the Router that most home networks use today.

The Ethernet hardware option and several software protocols expand the connection options to LANs, WANs, and the World Wide Web. Machine to machine over a LAN is relatively simple. Machine to machine over the Internet gets a lot more complicated when you have to go through a Router that is performing Network Address Translation and requires assigning dedicated ports. For the average broadband end-user that procedure can be a little daunting. That same end-user will appreciate Laplinks' solution to that problem. Both machines simply log-on to a Laplink server the same way any browser connects to any website. The remote server then connects the two machines together.

Two plus years ago, Laplink was selling new versions that were very attractive because they offered major rebates of the product. When I ordered mine, I was glad I had a \$90 rebate coming because I thought the software was buggy and not worth the full price. The company filed bankruptcy and stiffed me, and a lot of other people, for the rebate. The Laplink name and software code was sold to the current Laplink company. There are some rough edge to this product and I think the trauma of that transition is still affecting the quality of

the Laplink Gold 12 package. The printed user pamphlet is tiny and printed in a greyed-out type that is hard to read and left me wanting a better manual while installing the software. The ‘real’ manual is on the CD.

During setup, a screen popped up labeled Setup Options, with a box that could be checked next to the phrase “Run Prior to Log-in” (check box) Run Laplink Gold12, which I could find no reference to in the help files. At one point I was informed that it was going to use Port 1547.

There was no option to print the startup readme. It took the better part of an hour to deal with the product activation procedure. Immediately after the install, I was informed that the computer needed to be restarted. When it re-booted a window popped up telling me that I would have to get an activation key from the Laplink website that would be tied to the serial number that came with the disk, but for some strange reason, it wanted to download the trial version. After stumbling with the Zonealarm firewall blocking access over the LAN, I configured the right IP address range and was able to talk to a second machine. After going to the security log on the second CPU and entering the computer name and password that the first computer was going to use, I was able to establish a connection between the two. The Laplink dual file manager screen appeared and I was able to navigate to the right directory on the second machine and drag and drop a 2.5MB file to a destination directory on the first machine. This was done with a 802.11B wireless connection and the finish window reported a transfer speed of 5,000,000 bps. One of the many ways that Laplink can connect two computers together is over the internet but through one of Laplink's servers. Going through their server side steps the problems created by having to connect through firewalls on one end or the other, or both. By connecting to Laplink's server on both ends, all of the Port, DMZ, Tunneling, assigning Static IP addresses, etc., that are common in a number of direct (over the internet) computer to computer communication packages are bypassed. That doesn't mean you can't have other problems. Like when I tried to log into the Laplink remote server and got this message: **“Our database is currently down. Please try again later.”**

The remote connection scenario that I use most often is to access my home computer with the computer that I take to school for the class that I teach at SAC. Trying to get through the school's routers and firewalls would probably just not happen without the remote server connection approach that Laplink provides. Compared to the monthly cost of GoToMyPC, Laplink can be a bargain if you don't need the remote access from any computer feature. Some aspects of the total package could use some polish, but it works well. I recommend this program.

MSRP is \$129.00. Amazon.com offers it for \$99 with free shipping. See <http://www.laplink.com> for more info.

System Requirements:

- * Microsoft Windows 98SE, Me, 2000, XP** or Server 2000/2003
- * 133 MHz or higher Pentium-compatible CPU
- * At least 64 megabytes (MB) of RAM; more memory generally improves responsiveness
- * 30 MB of available hard disk space (for a complete installation)
- * CD-ROM or DVD drive
- * VGA or higher resolution monitor ■

Encarta 2005 Reference Library Premium DVD

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

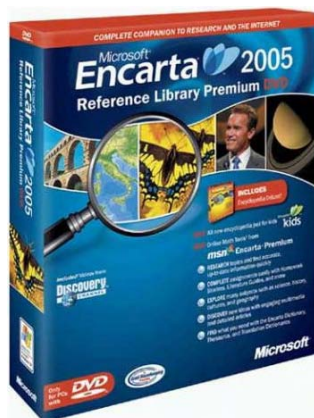
Background

Microsoft's Reference Library sums up the background of encyclopedias and the evolution of Encarta very nicely, and I have quoted their text (Microsoft © Encarta® Reference Library 2005. © 1993-2004 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.) in the next four paragraphs.

According to Encarta, an Encyclopedia is a: "reference work that provides information on a range of subjects. Encyclopedias can encompass many areas of interest, or they can focus on a particular field of study, such as a geographic area, an ethnic group, a time period, or an academic discipline. Most encyclopedias have hundreds or thousands of articles, each addressing a distinct topic. Many of the articles contain illustrations, maps, photographs, and other media elements that help readers understand concepts. For centuries encyclopedias were published as multivolume sets of books, but in the late 20th century they appeared in new formats, such as CD-ROM, digital video disc (DVD), and on the Internet."

"In 1993 the Microsoft Corporation released Encarta Encyclopedia, a general multimedia encyclopedia on CD-ROM without an accompanying multivolume book set. Encyclopedia Britannica's first electronic version was also published in 1993. A multimedia version of World Book Encyclopedia appeared on CD-ROM in 1995, although World Book had previously released an electronic encyclopedia called the Information Finder. The Canadian Encyclopedia appeared on CD-ROM in 1996. In 1999 Encarta Africana, which deals with the experiences of Africans, African Americans, and other people of African descent, became one of the first encyclopedias to appear first in CD-ROM format, and then later in print."

"Another innovation in encyclopedia publishing in the late 1990s involved the Internet. The Internet was first developed in the 1960s, but it was not until the introduction of the World Wide Web in 1989 that it became feasible to transfer multimedia information over computer networks. By the late 1990s computers and modems were powerful enough to allow encyclopedia publishers to develop online versions of their products. The online versions typically included all the text of the print and electronic disc versions, as well as much of the multimedia. The Internet also enabled publishers of CD-ROM encyclopedias to update the content of the CD-ROM. In 1995 Encarta published the first hybrid online-CD-ROM encyclopedia. This hybrid version could be updated monthly by downloading content from the Internet. The content was then seamlessly integrated with the con-



tent on the CD-ROM. Several later versions enabled weekly updates, and other CD-ROM encyclopedia publishers followed suit, adopting similar functionality."

"In December 1997 Encarta Encyclopedia became the first encyclopedia to be published in the DVD format. DVDs can store much more information than CD-ROMs, allowing greater use of complex multimedia features such as videos, animations, and interactivities."

Review

The DVD that I obtained came in a beautifully color-illustrated box with overleaf. The information provided (not one part of the box was devoid of information) is a splendid overview on the contents and capabilities of the Microsoft Reference Library and a microcosm of what I found when I delved into the program. All of the information on the single DVD can be copied to your hard drive and it will occupy over 3GB of space. Since my Dell Dimension 8400 computer (3.2GHz, Windows XP) came with a 160GB drive, this was not a problem and it avoided my having to use the DVD while running the program. Installation of the full program was straight forward and took only a few minutes. To fully utilize Encarta's capabilities, you will need a robust PC capability with a high-speed Internet connection.

I first availed myself of the world of encyclopedias during my college days (before PCs) when I regularly used the library Britannica to aid my classroom studies and research projects. It wasn't until 1961 that I bought a hard-bound, 20-volume set of the World Book for use by my children and then I kept it "up-to-date" with the purchase of annual yearbooks until 1975. At that point, I decided that it was occupying too much space and my kids could use the public library for their reference book needs.

What a phenomenal improvement time and technology has made! Encarta today is without a doubt one of the top electronic multimedia encyclopedias. PC Magazine (8-17-04) rated it "Editors' Choice" and reviewer Carol Mangis cited it as "our perennial favorite" and "one of the best homework helpers we can imagine." Vincent E. Martin, a professional writer and frequent reviewer gave Encarta 2005 a 5-star rating and stated it "fulfills my needs for a portable yet powerful and comprehensive reference suite at an affordable price-point." His full review is at [http://pcmag.shopping.com/xPR-Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2005 With 20 DVD~RD-173339545220](http://pcmag.shopping.com/xPR-Microsoft+Encarta+Reference+Library+2005+With+20+DVD~RD-173339545220). Another excellent review/comparison of several encyclopedias, by Edward Baig, can be found at http://www.usatoday.com/tech/columnist/edwardbaig/2004-07-14-encyclopedias_x.htm. He rated Encarta 4 stars, but gave the electronic Britannica only 3 stars and called Encarta "the slickest and easiest to use by a long shot."

Here's my assessment of Encarta: The program is very easy to use, fast, and user friendly; it gives you access to an enormous amount of knowledge (I deliberately didn't say information since a lot of available information, especially on the Internet, is inaccurate or wrong), both within the program with its 68,000 articles, 26,000 photos & illustration, 400 videos, 3,000 audios, and more through Internet links, 2D & 3D Virtual Tours; includes an excellent Dictionary, Thesaurus, Translation Dictionaries (between English and French, German, Italian, Spanish); and interactive World Atlas powered by Microsoft's MapPoint with 1.8 million map locations and 20 different map styles. New to the 2005 edition are a Kid's Encarta for the younger set (ages 7-12), an on-

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PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

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

Boxed Programs and CDs

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 encompasses 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.

Jasc's Paint Shop Pro 9 – The latest version of this top-notch photo editing program from Jasc (now part of Corel). MSRP=\$129.

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

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

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.

PC-cillin Internet Security 2005 – Trend Micro's award-winning protection from viruses, hackers, spyware, and spam for home and small office users. MSRP=\$50.

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.

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.

Disk Director Suite 6 – This is an award-winning partitioning utility from Acronis. MSRP=\$50.

Currently Available Books

QuickBooks 2005 – The Missing Manual –

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.

PC Annoyances, 2nd Edition – Steve Bass' expanded book with fixes for all the common annoyances. From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$20.

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Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

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

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

- I. What is the product's stated purpose and does it meet it?
- II. Does it stand out compared to similar products?
- III. What are its major features?
- IV. Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?
- V. Is it worth the money? Do you recommend it?
- VI. Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?

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

I. Requirements:

- a. Operating systems?
- b. Processor/speed?
- c. Memory, Disk space, Video & Audio?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

- a. Was it difficult?
- b. Copy or write protected?
- c. Does it allow drive and directory selection?
- d. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system:

- a. Hardware?
- b. Operating system? Version?
- c. Memory?, Video display?

IV. Documentation:

- a. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
- b. Was it clear, concise and helpful?
- c. Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:

- a. How is the vendor's tech support?
- b. Does it cost anything?
- c. Is it a toll call?
- d. Does the vendor provide free Internet support?

VI. About the product:

- a. What comes with the product?
- b. What is the cost (list & street)? Any special deals for user group members?
- c. Version number and release date?
- d. How difficult is the learning curve?
- e. Would you buy/use the product?
- f. Do you recommend it?
- g. What don't you like about it?
- h. What improvements or changes would you like to see?
- i. Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?
- j. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

The following list of questions applies to books:

- a. What is the subject matter?
- b. Does the book meet its stated purpose?
- c. Is it timely? If it is a revised edition, what is new in the current edition?
- d. Is the title an accurate reflection of the content?
- e. What level of reader capability is required? Who will find it useful?
- f. Is it easy to read and technically accurate?
- g. Is it well illustrated and are the illustrations easy to view?
- h. Are there any major omissions and why are they important?
- i. How are the key points highlighted?
- j. Does the book have to be read in chronological order?
- k. Are there any accompanying extras (like CDs)?
- l. What do you like and dislike about the book?
- m. Is the author well known in this field? Does he/she have a web site for errata/updates?
- n. Finally, do you recommend it?

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

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, NOCCC



In May, we experienced another informative and entertaining session from computer security guru Steve Gibson. Steve runs his well-known research company, Gibson Research Corporation (www.grc.com), the maker of SpinRite, a popular hard drive testing tool.

President Cathy Margolin ran the meeting. She noted that the Club started in April 1976, so we are now officially '29 and Holding!' Birthday cakes were even brought in to celebrate.

As elections were being held in June, the floor was opened for nominations. At that time, the following people were nominated: Elise Edgell for President, Herb Wong for Vice President, Alan Pearlman for Treasurer, Cathy Margolin for Past President (unanimously), and the following directors: John Carlson, Dave Keays, George Margolin, Richard Miller, Else Olovsson, Gerry Resch, Jim Sanders and Ted Littman.

Steve started off reviewing some of Microsoft's recent actions. He applauded them for finally disabling raw sockets in their mid-April Windows patches. (Those were used by worm-type computer viruses to spread and wreak havoc on Windows systems worldwide.) He was also content with their new Windows firewall introduced in XP Service Pack 2. However, the software giant still has a way to go before satisfying Steve's security concerns. In fact, because it's so difficult to get Microsoft to change things, Steve will TRY to prove to them that two changes are necessary to protect the Windows-using public. He will get this proof with

the releases of LeakTest 2 and 3, which should both be completed by Summer 2005. Each new version will test a different security threat that Steve has identified.

Steve is discontinuing his current huge e-mail list. The last time he even sent a newsletter was way back in February 2002. The list has grown to a whopping 765,000 e-mail addresses, but a number of them are probably obsolete by now. Also, considering how long it's been since he sent a newsletter, most people would probably block a new mailing with their spam filters. It would probably be a huge waste of time to resume mailing to the current list (and he'd potentially get thousands of bounce messages anyway). However, he will send just one more. This will tell everyone to download and install Shields Up! When they do, they'll get the opportunity to re-subscribe to his newsletter. Then from that point, he will only send mailings to the new list created from Shields Up! Thus, he advised everyone in the audience to download and install that utility from <http://www.grc.com>.

Working on his E-commerce site recently, Steve learned a great deal about encryption — a critical tool for information security. He decided to focus his presentation on teaching us encryption basics. (Some of the details he provided will be briefly explained here, but it is not possible to adequately treat the subject in a small review like this. The reader is encouraged to research this topic on his/her own with a book or the Internet.)

Encryption is a way of encoding a piece of information, like a message, before sending it over a public medium like the Internet. If an eavesdropper illegally intercepts the message, he won't be able to understand it because it's all encoded. It will look like gibberish to him. The recipient will have to decode — or decrypt — the message before reading it.

There are two basic ways encryption is done — symmetric and asymmetric. With symmetric encryption, both the sender and receiver secretly agree on a specific KEY before transmitting any information to each other over the public

medium. When they do transmit, the sender uses their key to encrypt it and the recipient uses that same key to decrypt it. The concept is very simple. It would be impossible for an eavesdropper to decrypt the message without the key (as long as it was a 256-bit key or better). Only the sender and receiver would be able to decrypt the message because of their mutually agreed-upon key. Without the key, it would take so long for third parties to decrypt it that the message would be obsolete by the time they did so.

Asymmetric encryption takes much longer to perform than symmetric, but it provides a great advantage — the sender and receiver do not have to meet ahead of time to agree on a key. Each person who ever uses this type of encryption must generate a MATCHED PAIR of keys for himself or herself. One of the pair is a PUBLIC key and the other is a PRIVATE key. He or she then PUBLISHES the public key only. Anyone can encrypt a message with the public key, but to decrypt it, a person must have BOTH the public and private key pair. Whenever a sender wants to transmit an encrypted message asymmetrically, he/she just finds the recipient's public key, encrypts the message with that key, and sends it to the recipient. Only the recipient can then decrypt the message, using both his/her public and private keys. An eavesdropper will not be able to decrypt the message without the private key. Thus, it remains secured.

Asymmetric encryption can also be used to prove that a message is authentically from a certain sender. The sender would just have to encrypt the message with his/her PRIVATE key. At that point, any recipient could decrypt it with the sender's PUBLIC key. If the public key decrypts the message, then the recipient knows the message could have only been encrypted by the sender's private key — thus, it could have only come from the sender.

A member asked Steve what should be done if a sender wanted to encrypt a message so that only the recipient could decrypt it AND so that the recipient had

proof that the message was from that specific sender (i.e., both aforementioned objectives at the same time). Steve replied that the sender would have to encrypt the message with two keys — the recipient's public key (so only that recipient could decrypt it) and the sender's private key (to prove it came from that specific sender). The recipient would also have to know to decrypt the message with the other two keys — the recipient's private key and the sender's public key.

Another important factor making asymmetric encryption so effective is that, given a pair of keys — public and private — it is nearly impossible to figure out one from the other. If a hacker had your public key, he/she could not use it to figure out your private key. Well, it can be done — but it would take YEARS. By the time the hacker figured it out, you would have already changed the key several times over (if you were truly concerned about security).

To make asymmetric encryption effective, though, the keys need to have a much greater strength than symmetric keys. Asymmetric keys should be 256 KILOBIT keys.

Steve also discussed more advanced encryption topics, including the use of symmetric and asymmetric encryption TOGETHER to efficiently encrypt a large amount of data, like a thick book. He explained the use of random numbers and hashing algorithms to encrypt private transactions over the Internet, such as purchases with credit cards. He explained a little about digital signatures, SSL (Secure-Socket Layer) technology, digital certificates, and the experience renewing his own digital certificates with the company that issues them, VeriSign. (They charge him \$700 dollars for renewal every two years!) These topics are beyond the scope of this review.

A member asked what should be done if your physical computer that contains your private keys is stolen? Steve replied that you should IMMEDIATELY revoke all keys on that system and generate new ones.

Another topic came up — firewalls.

Steve said that he recently tested 18 personal firewall products and noticed important differences between them. Oddly enough, the most popular ones — ZoneAlarm, Norton, and McAfee — got the poorest marks in his tests. The two that did the best (tied for first place) were called Tiny and Kerio. The problem was that the companies developing ZoneAlarm, Norton, and McAfee were all competing viciously and constantly adding unimportant new features to make sales. These extra features were making the products less effective at doing their main job — blocking unwanted traffic.

A member asked what Steve recommended to protect from spyware. Steve said that in the past, he had always recommended using Adaware and Spybot together (both of which can be obtained on <http://www.download.com>). However, he no longer has time to keep up with this growing industry. Another gentleman named Eric L. Howes researches spyware removers and provides detailed reviews of them all. On Steve's website (<http://www.grc.com>), he maintains a link to Eric's page. He suggested that everyone follow the link and read Eric's advice.

Universal Plug n' Play was also discussed. Steve suggested that we disable it immediately on all Windows systems. A member asked Steve to explain it. Universal Plug n' Play is a feature that came with the latest versions of Windows (2000 and XP). It basically broadcast advertises your computer's presence when it connects to a network, so that others can use its resources if desired. UP n' P can be useful for doing research, or perhaps on a small, isolated workgroup network. However, the broadcast occurs on any network to which you connect your system, including THE INTERNET. It can make your computer a shining target for hackers. You can disable this service with the Services applet in Control Panel or with one of Steve's utilities — UnPlug n' Pray — available on www.grc.com.

Steve answered many more questions that day — in fact, too many to include here. He was even kind enough to stay

for a whole extra hour, just to try answering as many questions as possible. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Next month — June 5, Vance Jochim, will be back in town from Iraq, and he will be our Main Meeting speaker. He will show us how he connects and stays in touch half way around the world. He has quite a few pictures to share from his Canon digital camera and will talk to us about the trials and tribulations of keeping technology working in Bagdad. It should be very interesting. We will also hold elections then, so if you would like to run for the Board, now is the time!

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG



*By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC
Market Review*

April was a poor month for the markets. Energy cost rose, inflation was being discussed openly, and good news was absent from the economy and earnings reports. Some of the blue chip companies were pessimistic and missed their projections, e.g. IBM and GM. We analyzed the current status of the 3 major indexes — Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P 500, using charts from Prophet.net that showed the trading ranges, support and resistance lines, and any trends or reversals. The Dow had its worst month since Jan 03, down 3%, and the Nasdaq was down 4%, which is about 12% down year to date. To see if we had reached a bottom and started to turn around, we looked at market timing charts from amateur-investors.com. This site provides charts for each market and uses 5 indicators for each indicator. If all the signals are present for the 3 main indexes, this signals a reversal. We found some but not all signals present across

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Meeting Reports

CAI SIG

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the 3 indexes — indicating that we were not ready for a reversal. The markets may be oversold and at the bottom, but the data did not say the reversal have yet started.

Discussion

We had a brief discussion about Technical Analysis and whether or not these tools were forecasting what the market would do or not. Scientifically, it is not true that the past data can forecast the future for the stock markets, which have many independent factors to them. These tools attempt to identify trends and breakouts from trends, and tops and bottoms — but only in retrospect once a few new data points can confirm the top or bottom is in (has passed). The tools help investors make decisions about key events, but only after data has been collected to indicate a pattern for that event — no forecasting involved. Where this gets fussy, is in the inferences made from these patterns, and how the indicators are used as facts or predictions of the future, i.e. does a bottom reversal mean that the market is in a rally or just that it has stopped going down for a while?

A question was raised about how to determine which investment styles were performing the best. One method from the FastTrack community is to use relative performance charts of funds that represent the various styles. In my recent studies, 4 index funds represented four styles as follows: small cap value — DTSVX, small cap growth — DTSGX, large cap value — DTLVX, large cap growth — DTLGX. Comparing these charts over the last 12 months showed small cap value was the best performer, with some periods of large cap value for short periods. Over longer periods (up to 5 years) small cap value was top. Prior to the 2001 collapse, large cap growth was doing well. AmiBroker was very helpful to show these comparisons and interactively change indexes to compare and time periods.

Presentation — Finding a Good Long Term Signal The above discussion perfectly lead into the presentation on the concept that a long term signal could be

part of a trading scheme to switch between high growth stocks (such as those in the NASDAQ 100) and small cap value stocks or funds. Several approaches were used to build a signal and try many back testing conditions to optimize returns. The concept was to build upon this signal and use periods of poor market conditions to trade with inverse (short) funds. Results were incomplete — more work is needed to validate this approach and rule out the unprofitable models.

Next month we will look at more ideas for trading systems that only trade a few times a year, including use of inverse funds to hedge portfolios during down markets. Please bring your ideas on how to do this to the meeting.

Digital Image SIG

Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Have done, are doing, and will do.

Many thanks are due to our speaker of last May, Greg Rager, who is not only a specialist in historical photographic activities of the nineteenth century, but very knowledgeable regarding current digital photography. He teaches the following subjects at Cypress Junior College: Alternative Processes, Photographics, Wedding, Zone System, and Introduction to Photography. He was awarded the “Cypress College Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award” in 2000.

He works full-time as a Production Color Digital Systems Analyst for Xerox Corporation with state-of-the-art digital printing technology. For his personal work, Gregory prints exclusively using 19th Century Processes. For this, his cameras are 90 years old and require negatives from 4x5 inches to 12x20 inches.

Greg’s retouching techniques are to be applauded as much for his restraint in introducing as little created material as possible when improving and/or restoring old photos as he is for the smoothness of his work in Photoshop.

At the next meeting on June 5, Mike

McCombs of Ritz Camera at Main Place, Santa Ana, will provide an analysis of current offerings in the market on digital still cameras.

On Saturday, July 9, 2005, siggers are invited to congregate at the arboretum north of the CSUF campus at 12:00 noon for a congenial photo shoot and picnic. Guests are welcome. BYO ingestibles. Details later via email. Participants are to burn only TEN of their favorite pictures for the day onto disk Saturday for presentation and evaluation at the NOCCC meeting the next day. The magic number is ten per disk per photographer. Each disk will have a brief explanation presented by the author at our gathering the next morning, 9:30 at the photo sig. Take this chance to achieve lasting fame. Perhaps money. Who knows?

Mac SIG

By C. Lemire, NOCCC

Tiger 10.4 and Other News

It was a lean bunch of us at the SIGroup yet if I recall that happens every Spring about this time. Some head off to other events. Some to outdoor adventures. They’ll be back. I did manage to get a report from Carla about her new OS - Tiger. First time I’ve seen her gush about a computer system. MacWorld magazine will cover Tiger in its next issue.

New Operating System From Apple by Carla Reisch

When Apple offered customers the opportunity to pre-order OS X version 10.4 Tiger, I couldn’t resist. Not only did I get a discount, but the software arrived at my house before the official release date. Installing the upgrade was simple - - but, of course, it’s a MAC! I inserted the DVD and clicked on the installer and a short time later, the upgrade was finished.

I opted for the basic installation initially, and then explored the additional features and upgrades offered on the DVD. I found upgrades for my iTunes software as well as the Apple DVD Player. Other Apple software applications such as Safari, Quicktime, iCal and Mail were upgraded during the basic in-

stallation of the operating system.

Among the new features in version 10.4 that I was most eager to explore was the Dashboard and its awesome array of widgets. Widgets are small, user-friendly applications that appear on your desktop and help you quickly access information without opening up a new program or a new website. Once I had installed the update and installed the widgets on the Dashboard, I went to Apple's website and downloaded several more. I can now access widgets for weather and traffic information by simply clicking on the Dashboard icon. I can also track packages from UPS, FedEx, and DHL via a clever little widget, as well as search Amazon.com without opening a new window in my browser. I also configured a widget that displays TV listings for my area, so I can check for any TV shows I don't want to miss.

The Dashboard can be customized so that not all widgets appear on the desktop. Simply clicking on the PLUS icon that appears in the lower left-hand corner of the screen, brings up a dock with all the widgets available on your Dashboard. There are certain that I use all the time and want to have on the desktop; then there are others I use only occasionally. I was pleasantly surprised that Stickies have returned in the form of a widget. (Longtime users of the MAC OS will remember Stickies - an electronic version of the Post-It Note.) With the hundreds of widgets available (and that number is growing daily), the Dashboard feature will remain a favorite among MAC users for years to come. In the next installment, I will discuss more features from the new Tiger operating system from Apple. Stay tuned!

The MAC SIG meets NOCCC Sunday in 221 Wilkerson Hall at 11:15 am. Reach me at clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com or 714-292-9772 if you have any questions until then. PS - I bought 4 iMacs from a club member and have upgraded them with memory and almost current OS plus a few applications all for \$300 each system. If you call soon, I can include a floppy drive for free! ^-^

PRODUCTS FROM PAGE 22

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 Pro: The Missing Manual, 2nd Edition – This superbly written, newly updated book from O'Reilly neatly fills the void, whether you use XP Pro on a corporate network or on your own PC. It is aimed at the novice or budding power user who wants to master the machine and get down to useful work. MSRP=\$30.

Windows XP Annoyances for Geeks, 2nd Edition – This new update from O'Reilly is authored by David Karp and is written for intermediate and advanced users who want to turn Windows XP into the most efficient, reliable, customizable system that it can be. MSRP=\$35.

Word Hacks – This new book from O'Reilly, authored by Andrew Savikas, offers tips and tools for customizing, programming, and automating Microsoft Word. This book explicitly covers only Word 2000, 2002, and 2003 although many of the "Hacks" will work with older versions. MSRP=\$25.

iPod & iTunes Garage – Author Kirk McElhearn shows you how to get more music and way more magic from your iPod & iTunes. From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$25.

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 transition, 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.

Linux Desktop Garage – This book/CD by Susan Matteson from Prentice Hall PTR is full of tools and info to do practically everything with Linux. MSRP=\$30.

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 Standard 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

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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	Irvine Hall	—	2:30	Chuck Fete/Elise Edgell	cfete@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		9:30	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
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to				Herbert Wong, Jr.	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264

Benefits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

will have to give them your email address. I checked it out to make sure it was there. There does seem to be a demand on the server slowing it down. It is 36MB and took two hours to download.

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

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.

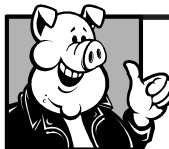
VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (<http://www.goldenbow.com>). Download a free 30 day trial to see how fast it will defragment your hard drive. Mention “Margolin” to get the \$30 user group discount or \$10 off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

Klassic Specialties – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, <http://www.klassicspecialties.com>.

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.



The NOCCC Help Line listing is published in the print version of the Bytes which is mailed to all members.

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

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

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



Products

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(plus CD) shows developers how to create, 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.

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.

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

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

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

Real 802.11 Security, Wi-Fi Protected Access & 802.11i – An Addison-Wesley book by Jon Edney & William Arbaugh provides

what you need to know on wireless LAN security. MSRP=\$45.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PHP 5 Power Programming – In this book from Prentice Hall, PHP 5's co-creator and two leading PHP developers show you how to make the most of its industrial-strength enhancements in any project. MSRP=\$40.

PHP-Nuke Garage – This book shows you how to master the most powerful open source Web content system ever created, then use it to build whatever your heart desires, hands-on, step-by-step. Authored by Don Jones from publisher Pren Hall PTR. MSRP=\$25.

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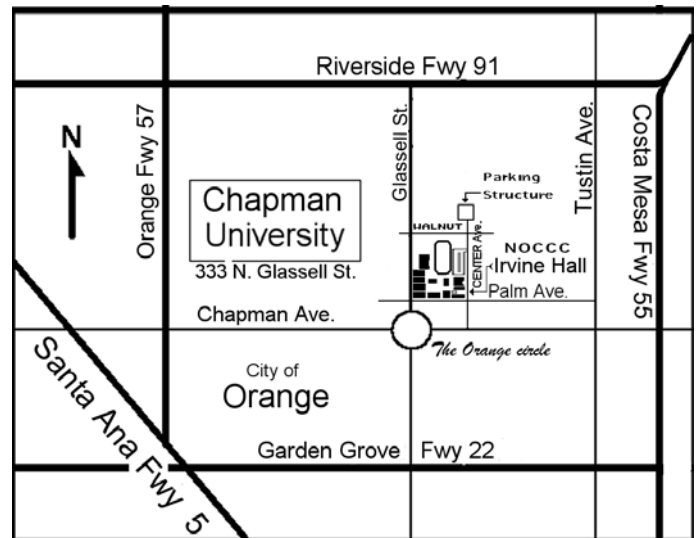
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