



Orange Bytes

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

Vol 30 • No 9

SEPTEMBER 2005

Bill Hersey and Bill Miller of Kroll Ontrack Data Recovery Procedures and Software

September meeting details on page 4

NOCCC Meetings - September 11th

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*

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

KrollOntrack presents Data Recovery

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 111*

New Technologies *N/A*

OS/2 News and Installation *Science 203*

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

Meeting Dates
Sep 11, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

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“Friends Helping Friends”



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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 Elise Edgell

WE WON, again.

Congratulations to Jim Sanders, editor and Ted Littman, reviews editor, on producing the Orange Bytes which won **FIRST PLACE** in the newsletter contest at the SWUG conference (see below). Unless you have been involved in writing, an editing a newsletter it is difficult to realize how much time and effort is involved in producing just one edition of the newsletter. To have a consistently excellent publication the work involved is on-going. One of the features of the Orange Bytes which is so outstanding is the Reviews section. Ted has done an excellent job of obtaining products for our members to review. He is very dedicated in getting the material, hauling it to meetings for display, keeping track of who is reviewing what, and then editing the review article. Jim has the time consuming task of putting the Orange Bytes together each month. He also edits articles submitted by members. A further task is the selection and arrangement of the photo spread in the center of each issue. We are fortunate to have an excellent photographer, George Margolin (supplemented by Jim Sanders and other members), to supply photographs of the meetings and events.

If you missed the Volunteer party at the Margolins' home you really missed a good time.

The party was lots of fun. The weather was very comfortable, the food good and plentiful, and the guests friendly and interesting. It was a good time to become better acquainted with other volunteers and to discuss ideas about our club.

I was not at the club meeting last month because I attended the South West User Group (SWUG) conference which was held in San Diego. It was another excellent place to get ideas about how to improve all aspects of our club. There were 355 attendees representing clubs as far away as Hawaii. I got some interesting ideas just talking to members of other clubs. Many workshops were presented covering subjects from the running of user groups to digital photography. A "Vendor's Fair" was held where it was possible to talk with representatives of many of the 65 SWUG sponsors. Some of the sponsors are from smaller companies that we would never hear of except through the SWUG event. A lot of the sponsors have offered discounts to club members. These offers will be passed on to you either through the "Members Benefits" column or in an e-mail. We even picked up some raffle prizes. The SWUG conference is open to all computer club members, not just officers and directors. If you would enjoy a weekend in San Diego at a nice hotel please decide to attend the next conference in 2006. I'll keep you posted on the exact date and registration information.

Just a reminder: As a member of NOCCC you get benefits such as the opportunity to review products, have an article or review published in the Orange Bytes, get great discounts on many products, attend conferences such as SWUG, and receive a monthly copy of the Orange Bytes. But, there is even a more important benefit. Without members there is no club, no meetings, and no fringe benefits. Please, become active in our club to ensure that we will be around for a long time. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering come to the next board of directors meeting and find out how we could use your talents. ■

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

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August Board Meeting Minutes



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

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SEPTEMBER 11TH MEETING PREVIEW

DIGITAL IMAGING SIG -9:30PM “Photographing Documents Behind Glass or RASCALLY REFLECTIONS & TRAGIC TRAP-EZOIDIS” some techniques for dealing with these problems will be demonstrated.

MAIN MEETING 1:00PM, Irvine Hall - - Our August Main Meeting speakers will be Bill Hersey and Bill Miller of Kroll Ontrack. They will talking about data recovery in general and the EasyRecovery FileRepair program in particular. In 1985, Ontrack Data Recovery founders, Michael Rogers, John Pence and Gary Stevens saw a need in the disk drive market and developed their first product, Disk Manager® software, a hard disk installation utility. When introduced, Disk Manager software broke the then current 32 megabyte size limit in DOS and allowed access to the new larger 40 megabyte hard drives. Disk drive manufacturers wanted to offer their users this Ontrack software solution, and many began bundling Disk Manager with the drives they produced. To date, Disk Manager has installed more than 80 million drives worldwide. Though Disk Manager is still sold, the companies emphasis is now focused on data recovery. For lots of additional details go to www.ontrack.com

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 the difficulties of everyday life.

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will be a Canon i250 color inkjet printer and the Mail Washer Pro anti-spam program from Fire Trust along with several other prizes. KrollOntrack is donating a copy of the EasyRecovery FileRepair program. MSRP \$339.00

The **Member-only prize** (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be a Linksys WiFi 802.11b PCMCIA card.

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%.

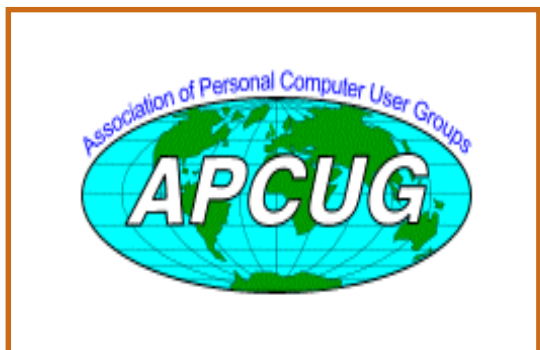
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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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Don't be a loser at the Rebate Games

Part 2

By *Jim Sanders, NOCCC*

Last month I went through a long list of the actions you should take and the things you should pay attention to if you actually want to get the rebate offered on the item you bought. One of those items bears repeating: **READ THE FINE PRINT! THEN READ IT AGAIN!** The balance of the article was a copy of three emails that dealt with a denied rebate. I covered all the ways in which I had encountered problems in the past. Between then and now, I ran into yet another way that 'they' try to make getting your money back complicated.

On 7/12/05 I went to a local Best Buy and purchased one, not two, one Sony DRU800A DVD burner. The price was \$119.00 with a \$30 mail in rebate from Sony. A little over a month later I received a post card saying my rebate was denied because: "You have already submitted the maximum number of rebate claims per household." My first thought was, "Well, that's BS." After thinking a few non-flattering things about Sony and calming down some I remembered that six (6) months earlier, in January, I had bought one of these drives from Staples that also had a \$30 rebate. I went to the website that was suggested on the Post Card and checked my rebate claim. Sure enough, they were counting the Staples purchase from six months earlier as the already submitted rebate claim.

How can that be I wondered? I looked at the offer date on the Best Buy rebate form and it said 05/03/2005 to 09/10/2005 for rebate offer #04-A30410. In checking further on the rebate website, I found a page that said rebate offer #04-A30410 was valid from 08/13/2004 to 09/10/2005. So for an entire year, if you bought a Sony DRU800A DVD burner, and liked it well enough that you wanted one for your second computer, it was WATCH OUT time. Months later you see a different store offer the same drive with a \$30 rebate. You 'READ THE FINE PRINT! THEN READ IT AGAIN!' and everything looks OK. The rebate offer is recent and there is nothing in the requirements that you can't do. Except, of course, remember that the 9 digit rebate number on this recent offer is the same one that you used 6 months ago on an offer from a different store. When I showed all of this documentation to a friend, his first comment was "Wow, that's a different kind of scam!"

When I went back to Best Buy to complain, the store itself jumped through several hoops to give me the refund that I felt I was due. Applause for Best Buy please. Still, it cost me the time it took to file the rebate. It cost over a half hour of time comparing all my documentation, the Post Card and the rebate website. The round trip drive to

Best Buy cost a half hour, plus the hour in the store while they figured out how to refund me \$30 on a transaction that was more than 30 days old. It cost Best Buy employee wages as well as the \$30. The one dimly burning bright spot in this sea of black feelings, I got the Sales Tax on the \$30 back as well.

It would be interesting to know if Sony made Best Buy, and all the other stores that offered this rebate, unknowing accomplices to this shady offer.

As was noted in the copies of the emails in the first part of this article, a 'Rebate Receipt' may not be accepted as what the name implies. For many months, Fry's Electronics and other stores, have been using the cash register printer to not only print the 'Sales Receipt' but the 'Rebate Receipt' and the 'Rebate Form' as a way of saving time. Often the last two are on one long strip of paper that exceeds two feet in length. That makes it awkward to follow the suggestion to keep copies of all documentation that you submit for a rebate. For most people this means making a copy of one section of the strip and another of the remaining sections, or cutting it up into smaller pieces, which is not a good idea.

If you have one of the common 8.5" X 12" end user scanners and a program like Corel Paint Shop Pro 9, there is a better and more eloquent way to solve the problem using your computer.

Because Paint Shop Pro 9 has a feature called 'Layers,' it allows you to easily place all of your documentation on one sheet of paper. A reduced in size version, but very readable if done right. The following instructions are specific to Paint Shop Pro 9 and an Epson 1650 scanner, but other programs and scanners can do the same things.

The first step is to scan each document that needs to be copied. To speed up the process, I created a keyboard shortcut in Paint Shop Pro 9 such that typing 'Alt+a' brings up the Epson scanner control screen where you can define what kind of scan you want to perform. I have set it to 'black and white document' and '300 dpi' and that becomes the default until changed. As soon as that screen comes up, it does a fast low resolution pre-scan of the document. There is a button you can click that tells the program to automatically try and find the outside edges of the document. If that doesn't work perfectly, or you only want to scan a portion of a larger image (like the UPC code on a box), you can manually adjust the crop area.

To be safe, I save each scan to a separate file. There are several ways to deal with the long strips. First, cut off any excess blank areas at the top and bottom. If it is short enough that two scans will get it all, I place top of the form against the scanning guide, move the bottom cropping guide so that it is between lines, and scan. I then turn the strip around and place the bottom of the strip against the scanning guides, adjust the bottom crop



line such that there is a one or two line overlap with the previous scan, scan that portion, choose the 'Image, Rotate, Free Rotate, 180 deg.' this makes it right side up again. For longer strips, do the above, plus folding the strip in the appropriate location.

At this point all of the images are still on the Paint Shop Pro 9 desktop. I arrange them side by side, and go to 'Image, Canvas Size' to get the height and width of each image in pixels. Picking the longest one last, I add a small fudge factor to the height number, add up all the width numbers plus the oops factor, and choose to change the canvas size to those numbers. All of the new space is specified as being added to the bottom and right side of the canvas. The result is a canvas that is displaying the tallest image on the left side and a lot of blank space to the right that is tall enough and wide enough to have all of the images side by side.

I then click on one of the other images to make it the active image, type 'Ctrl+a' to select all of it, 'Ctrl+c' to copy all of it to the clipboard, and 'Alt+f+c' to close it. Click on the new big canvas to make it active, and type 'Ctrl+L' to paste what is on the clipboard as a new layer to the big canvas. Once that is done, I can take the move tool and position the new layer over any part of the big canvas I choose. In this case, I want it right next to the first strip. Once all of the images are layered and positioned on the big canvas, I can choose 'Layers, Merge, Merge All(flatten)' to create a new single image that is then 'Saved As' xxxxxxall.jpg. Xxxxxxall.jpg is then printed on a 600DPI or greater printer using the landscape mode and the fit to page option. I then take that page, write on it with marker pen in bold letters CC: Vendor, My Files. I staple all of the required documents to that page and mail the whole works. All of the above may only be required for fly-by-night rebate centers but you never know, and I figure it is a good PYA procedure. ■

SWUG 2005

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

The August meetings were missing a few of the usual faces because they were attending the SWUG Conference in San Diego. From the SWUG website:

"WHAT IS A USER GROUP CONFERENCE?"

The 12th Annual Southwest Computer User Group Conference will be held from Friday evening, August 5 through Sunday, August 7 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, CA. Activities will include: workshops on Saturday and Sunday; vendor-sponsored presentations & meals; a Vendor Faire; numerous prize drawings; as well as up close and personal time with participating vendors. In addition, attendees will receive a T-shirt and Welcome Bag.

Attendees will have an opportunity to interface with user group leaders having similar interests to share ideas and experiences, as well as solutions to problems.

The conference began with 45 attendees and has grown to over 350 in 2005, representing 62 user groups."

In addition, the conference sponsors a Website and Newsletter Contest. This year there were two categories for the Newsletter Contest. Your Orange Bytes newsletter was judged in the larger, 12+ pages category. I am happy to report that we were judged to be the best in that category and won 1st Place.



Judy Taylour and Patricia Hill are the main organizers of the conference and do an amazing job of coordinating all of the people and organizations that have to work together to make everything come together and work. Even though it costs at-

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29 Useful Bookmarks

By Richard Johnson, TUGNET, www.tugnet.org

The Web is a marvelous resource, and most of us come nowhere near tapping its full potential. I've attempted here to list 29 websites that without any necessary downloading provide exceedingly useful free non-specialized services and tools, that require no particular knowledge except how to navigate the World Wide Web.

1. Time Cave www.timecave.com
2. Memo to Me www.memotome.com

Using these two email reminder services you'll never forget another upcoming activity or event. Time Cave allows you to schedule incoming messages by interval (so many hours, days, weeks, months, or even years away) as well as by date and time. Memo to Me allows editing of content and date. With Time Cave you can choose your own subject line and send reminders to others, but Memo to Me will charge you for those features. On the other hand, Time Cave charges for the ability to repeat messages (monthly, weekly, etc.), standard with Memo to Me.

3. Way Back Machine www.archive.org/web/web.php

Is a website you're seeking no longer around? If it was active as late as 1996, you'll probably find it easily in this huge archive.

4. Centerwatch Clinical Trials www.centerwatch.com

Gives information on more than 41,000 active clinical trials in which you could participate. (Some compensate you handsomely for helping, along with free medical monitoring.) Includes a notification service, for trials in areas of your interest. Also describes the newest drug therapies.

5. Objectgraph Dictionary www.objectgraph.com/dictionary

A combination standard dictionary, technical dictionary, and thesaurus. (There's also a dictionary of chemical elements, of rather limited interest). A unique feature is the site's ability to "read your mind" if you're not sure of the word you're thinking of — or its spelling — or if you just want to save typing.

6. Myway email www.myway.com

An excellent Web-based email provider with an exceptionally clean interface (no banner ads or pop-ups). Unlike the case with competitors like Yahoo mail, Myway will respond to support inquiries. (It also has a terrific weather page — see link #7 following.) [If you prefer Gmail, equally clean-appearing, I can get you an invitation — see my article in the March Keywords.]

7. Myway weather weather.myway.com

The best weather page on the Web. Even though its weather information is from weather.com, you'll see when you use it that the interface is much cleaner (and loading therefore faster) than if you were to bring up either weather.com or one of its competitors. You can personalize the weather according to your home town or zip code; the page you'll want to bookmark is that personalized page

8. Past Weather www.weather.com/activities/other/other/

weather/yesterday.html

Use this site to compare today's forecast with yesterday's weather. There's also interesting historical data and a graph showing the weather for the past seven days. The past weather information can easily be compared with the forecast from Myway weather (link #7), which derives its data from the same source.

9. Furl www.furl.net

Bookmarking is useful, but what do you do when you find that a bookmarked page has disappeared (left the Web)? Or maybe it's still there, but — as with many newspaper sites — you can't read it without going to a paid archive. This won't be an issue if you've Furl'd the page. Furl allows you to create a set of special bookmarks that can be easily searched or browsed — or shared with others — but whose contents are permanently stored on your hard drive. (If you feel the need to save parts of a page, try Net Snippets Free at www.netsnippets.com/basic. This does require a download.)

10. Gold Star Events <http://snipurl.com/bl9o>

Gold Star enables admissions to a large variety of live California productions at 50% off or better. After your (free) registration, you'll receive regular email notices of well-described shows in the zip code areas of your preference. There's a small per-ticket service fee, usually between \$3 and \$7.

11. Password Generator <http://mistupid.com/computers/passwordgen.htm>

Random characters compose the safest passwords. This tool will create a password with random characters according to your specifications. On your instructions, will even avoid ambiguous characters [o and 0, 1 and I].

12. Zap2it www.zap2it.com

With Zap2it you can check out both TV and movie schedules. Various options let you permanently personalize each set of listings, to give you just the information you need, in the format you prefer.

13. Acronym Finder www.acronymfinder.com

Don't be baffled by acronyms and abbreviations you encounter on the Web and elsewhere. This site offers definitions for over 398,000 such terms. Optional downloading of any of a number of search tools (for various browsers) will allow you to view a definition almost instantly.

14. Restaurant health ratings (LA County) <http://lapublichealth.org/rating>

Avoid traveling to an appealing restaurant only to find that its health rating is below the level with which you're comfortable.

15. Translation Wizard www.faganfinder.com/translate

The Translation Wizard uses other sites' services to ease the process of finding a translation — that otherwise might require visiting ten or more sites to find the language of interest! It also has a neat button to identify a mystery language.

16. Anybirthday <http://anybirthday.com>

A fun site that can divulge your friend's birthday or even tell you where to mail the card.

17. TrackEngine www.trackengine.com

Notifies you via email of changes in Web pages that you se-

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Book Excerpt: Five More Computer Privacy Annoyances

By Dan Tynan, author of *Computer Privacy Annoyances* (O'Reilly Press).

Tired of annoying pop-ups and fretting over junk mail? Here are fixes for another five of your computer privacy annoyances

Pick Your Mail

Pull Quote Suggestion: ...other people have made inquiries about me. Should I pay up to find out what people are saying about me?

THE ANNOYANCE: I don't want to stop all mail advertisements. I'm in the market for a retirement home, so I want to receive any offers related to retirement communities and resorts. How do I attract the mail I want without getting buried by stuff I detest?

THE FIX: Laser-like precision in this realm isn't likely. Still, you may be able to winnow a bit by using Junkbuster's handy Declarations Form (<http://www.junkbusters.com/jdu.html>). This form lets you state exactly what kinds of solicitations you will or won't accept, and from what kinds of companies (charities, magazines, financial services, etc.). You can then send the declaration to direct mailers, post it on your Web site, or ask Junkbusters to send the form to you. Marketers may ignore your request, but at least you've tried.

Rewrite Netscape's History

THE ANNOYANCE: I've cleared my history in Netscape Navigator, but the names of some web sites still show up when I click the down arrow in the address bar.

THE FIX: You've discovered one of the chinks in Netscape 7.x's armor. Unlike IE, Navigator doesn't automatically clear out the names of web sites you've typed into the address bar. To wipe these out, go into Edit*Preferences*History and click the Clear Location Bar button. (This problem is solved in the Netscape 8.0 and you ought to upgrade.)

Shoot the Messenger

THE ANNOYANCE: The other day a message popped up over my Windows system tray asking "Want sex?" (Sure I do, but I prefer to have mine with humans, not computers.) I wasn't surfing the Web and haven't downloaded anything to my hard disk. What the heck happened?

THE FIX: You've been had by a spammer exploiting a flaw (or, if you like, a feature) in Windows Messenger Service. Though easily confused with MSN Messenger, Microsoft's online chat software, Windows Messenger Service was designed to let network administrators communicate with folks over their corporate networks. These days, it's used by a handful of noxious

spammers to spread ads for porn sites and other charming services.

Fortunately the fix is easy. Simply download and install Gibson Research's free Shoot The Messenger applet at <http://www.grc.com/stm/shootthemessenger.htm>. Click the Disable Messenger button, and then Exit. Simplicity itself. Or, better yet, download Windows XP Service Pack 2, which turns WMS off by default.

Enquiring Minds Don't Really Want to Know

THE ANNOYANCE: I received a message from a web site claiming that other people have made inquiries about me. But to get more information, they want \$25. Should I pay up to find out what people are saying about me?

THE FIX: Not unless you want the word "sucker" tattooed on your forehead. This is an old scam that comes from a variety of domains, such as <http://www.word-of-mouth.org> and <http://www.shareyourexperiences.com>. (See the Snopes Urban Legends page at <http://www.snopes.com/computer/internet/wordofmouth.asp> for more details.) Even if someone was investigating you (doubtful), all these sites do is let you contact them anonymously via email. That's hardly worth 25 bucks.

Thanks for Not Sharing

THE ANNOYANCE: I don't mind my kids roaming the Net, but I'm afraid they'll tell some stranger where we live or start sharing my credit card information in a chat room.

THE FIX: Use your firewall's privacy protection feature, if it has one, to prevent your kids from spilling specific information over the net—like your home address, phone number, and so on. For example, to do this with ZoneAlarm 5 Security Suite, launch the ZoneAlarm control panel (Start*All Programs*Zone Labs*Zone Labs Security), and select ID Lock in the left-hand area of the panel.

On the Main tab move the slider bar to High to prevent any sensitive information from leaking out. Then select the myVault tab, click Add, fill in the description field, then type the information you want to keep secure. Put a checkmark in the boxes next to IM, Web, and Email to secure all outbound communications, then click OK.

If you want some sites to have access to this information (like Amazon.com), click the Trusted Sites tab, then Add, and type the URL of the sites you trust with your personal information.

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ThinkFree Office Suite 3.0

By William D. Allen, NOCCC

There's a new low price alternative to Microsoft's Office suite; it's ThinkFree Office 3.0. ThinkFree 3.0 is compatible with all major operating systems including Macintosh, Windows, and Linux. The suite includes a word processor, a spreadsheet, a presentation program and a file folder management system.



ThinkFree files are fully compatible with Microsoft Office's Word, Excel, and Power Point file system. The user can choose to generate either ThinkFree formatted files or those formatted for Microsoft Office.

ThinkFree Write, the word processor, is laid out similar to Microsoft Word, making user transition to Think Free Write easy. It has the familiar menu items: File; Edit; Insert; Format; etc. Write also has five selectable toolbars for: tables; forms; editing; outlining; and status, which appears at the bottom of the screen. Over 30 symbol tables are available through just a few keyboard strokes. Additionally, there are 22 sets of clipart, each with around 25 images each, also at hand with a few key strokes. Write can also accommodate forms development with text boxes, execute buttons, drop down menus, radio buttons, etc., available from the Insert menu. The program also can generate PDF files. Write can even publish website pages using the above clipart objects as well as images. Hyperlinks can be included in Write documents. Autocorrect is available for fixing common typing errors, including correcting personal common typing errors. Write also includes a variety of style sheets much as does Microsoft Word.

Write facilitates writing JavaScript's and Java website applets. For web pages written in foreign languages Write provides the encoding needed to present the web pages properly. The HTML code for a web page can be seen with just two key strokes. A wide variety of commands are provided on the table toolbar. It appeared to be easier to form complex tables using Write's table toolbar than the Microsoft Word table tools. Multiple documents can be displayed and edited within the Write window using frames.

ThinkFree Calc, the spreadsheet program, has over

three hundred math, statistical, financial, lookup, date and text functions, many similar to those of Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet. The spread sheet also has clip art, over five hundred images in seventeen categories. There are eleven chart types including scatter, line, bar, pie chart types. Standard editing, formatting, formula, and status tool bars are provided. The user can insert comments into a spreadsheet which will not be displayed nor appear when the sheet is printed. Autocorrect similar to that in Write is also provided with the spreadsheet. Frames can be established and frozen much as with Microsoft's Excel. The user can add his/her own custom lists for one key selection. By entering a week-day, month, etc., in a cell and using a fill handle similar to that of Excel a series of days, months, etc. can be filled in succeeding cells. In general, Calc seems to have many of the same features as the Excel spreadsheet.

ThinkFree Show is the presentation program. It too has four toolbars plus a ruler. As expected there is a plethora of clip art images as are available in ThinkFree Write. Interestingly there are fifteen slide theme backgrounds entitled freedom, danger, cyberspace, world-wide web, plus selectable color shadings to get beyond the commonplace white slide background. The program even provides rudimentary animation effects. A complete automated slide show can be formulated from a set of user constructed slides.

ThinkFree Folders permits user management of multiple documents, spreadsheets, and presentation slide sets. It has a viewer for checking files to quickly locate work material. Under the Tools menu item it is possible to locate files from the web directly. By creating a public folder you can make your files available to your coworkers, just as they can for you as well. Public folder users will each need a log-in ID to exchange files while preventing unauthorized intrusion. The Folder program has a one key sort capability for easily locating a needed file.

The ThinkFree programs have a few shortcomings in this first 3.0 version. Some of the Calc functions such as Hyperlink are listed but not supported in 3.0. Also, there are no examples provided in the Calc's function wizards. The user must be familiar with the mathematical function including parameters before applying it. But that may actually be a benefit in ensuring correct usage.

ThinkFree Office is \$49.95 for downloading the new version and \$29.95 for upgrading from earlier versions at <http://www.thinkfree.com/purchase/index.jsp>. This review was done with Windows XP on a 2.5 GHz PC with 512 RAM, a 40 GHz HD and a cable modem. ■

WebSearch Garage

By Vivian Picker, NOCCC

Tara Calishain's garage, where she claims to do her best work, must be clean and well organized and that's exactly how she has written this text.

She claims that it is not for novices, rather for those who use the Internet for work or those who pursue their interests on the net; for those who help others using the Internet - librarians, teachers, support personal at work sites, homeschoolers, etc; lastly, people who have a curiosity about the scope of the net and want to hone their skills or to monitor new sites.

Frankly, as soon as one learns how to get on the Internet, this text will save hours of frustration.

The concept of the book is based on three categories:

The Elements of the Internet - basic stuff, what search engines are all about, tools to use, and gadgets and tweaks you can use to make your search easier.

The Principles - some principles on how the Internet works as search engines. Specific topics are covered and one is shown how to use search engines, both Full Text and Subject Indexes, and techniques of great help in dealing with and evaluating new resources and search engines as the Internet changes and evolves continually.

The Examples - topic which cover specific kinds of searching from genealogy to finding audio on line, news searching, job searching, finding local information, finding people, and companies, consumer issues and help, medical information, driver and computer help, as well as sources for software.

Within this outline, most people will be able to find the search engine needed and use it to pursue their interests for work, entertainment, or knowledge.

A short chapter (Chapter Eight) is most interesting - least I found it to be an eye opener for evaluating the search engine information. This could be of some concern when researching some subjects.

First Level: scanning the material for what pops out - the subcategories, names repeated as authors of papers or books on the topic, historical context, and related source material indicated.

Second Level: what are the page characteristics, are there many .edu and .org results, are there many pages in which your subject is mentioned with another you've not thought of, and are there an unusually small number ".com" results most being .edu or .org.

Third Level: scanning the page for unique words names - people or organizational, dates, places, facts associated with



the subject. Facts often need to be checked out, but it may lead to different aspects of the search subject.

Chapter Thirteen (untitled The Principles of Salt Grains) gives an outline for the first rule of the Internet - *trust nothing*. The questions to be asked are: Where does this page reside? Who made the statement? Why are they making this statement? What are they doing to establish the truth of It? How long have they been on line? What are other sites saying about them? and Are they who they say they are? Four sites are given to check out facts.

Certainly, the text fulfills the stated purpose - The material as it is formed can only enhance one's skills and the ties on each page help with the quirks that come up from time to time. Published Aug. 2004, it is reasonably up to date and the material is formed to help in dealing with future modes of search engine development. The title well expresses the fact that the text covers a collection of material.

It is easy to read with some illustrations - enough to cover the material without being cluttered. There are tips on nearly every page outlined in blue. They do not interfere with reading the text but are relevant to the material, if needed. Even a novice can use this text. There is no computer jargon to confuse one - That Is a Godsend. It would be good to scan the first two parts (pages 1-141) if a novice; though anyone might pick up a few tips on reading these parts. The book need not be read in chronological order. The Contents and Index are both helpful in finding material.

This is a worthwhile text and certainly well worth the money. Tara Calishain is to be congratulated. She has written as author or coauthor two other books and is the editor of ResearchBuzz.

Web Search Garage by Tara Calishain is published by Prentice Hall Professional Technical Resources (<http://www.phptr.com/title/0131471481>). ISBN 0131471481. MSRP=\$20; currently \$18 with free shipping.

PC-cillin Internet Security 2005

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

Writing this review was interesting. Years ago I used PC-cillin and have been recommending it ever since. Before, it was just an anti-virus which is still very good today. It is even considered the best by many (About.com and pcworld.com, for example). But, I've found that the other components of the suite are not quite as good.

To begin with, the interface is easy to use. While not every review out there agreed with me, I found it very easy to navigate where I wanted once I stopped making assumptions about what it should do.

In fact, it is so easy that I'm worried. While "simple" doesn't always mean "bad", it does rouse the skeptic in me. I prefer

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something that gives me more fine-grain control over what happens on my computer. (It is “my computer” isn’t it?) However, having only a couple of settings without the possibility of messing-up a detail is better in some situations. But, if you want to do something unusual, something that Trend-Micro didn’t think of, or something that would tread on Trend-

Micro’s market, it is either impossible or it is buried deep where you wouldn’t expect it. (The bit about Trend-Micro not allowing you to interfere with their market is pure speculation on my part - I really can’t say what their motivations are.)

I wasn’t able to test every part of the suite since I don’t use all the services. However, I did get to check out the Anti-Virus, Spyware removal, Personal firewall, and vulnerability check. I left “Wi-Fi Patrol” and “Home Network Control” alone. Note, the capability to check for Wi-Fi leaches and to be alerted when certain information is used in an email sounds good to me!

ANTI-VIRUS(AV)

The Anti-Virus is PC-cillin’s history and its strong point. It definitely looks good, performs well, and has good default settings. It does appear to hide some of the necessary setting which may or may not be a plus to you.

I put 3 viruses (EICAR test virus, a JPG infected with GDI+, and the “attacker” Trojan horse) on my hard-disk and it found them immediately. I tried sending the EICAR virus to myself but it found it in my email body, in a regular email attachment, in a zipped attachment, and through web based email. (I used Yahoo but you should get the same results for gMail, Hotmail, et al.) It found it going in and going out of my machine. The only question I have now is why my ISP didn’t stop the virus like it is supposed to.

In today’s world, we need some options that either didn’t exist years ago or were by-passed to speed things up. Trend-Micro seems to have all the necessities even though it didn’t look like it at first. (Since there is no setting to turn them off like in Norton, I didn’t know they existed until I focused harder on the manual.) These are important because we are constantly being bombarded with new viruses, new variations of old viruses, viruses that hide in data files or email attachments, and viruses inside compressed files. But PC-cillin uses something called a “heuristic engine” to look for previously unknown yet virus-like behaviors. It also scans all attachments (zipped or not) and all files (not just program files).

I remember when it was thought that viruses couldn’t exist in data files and that they couldn’t survive compression (zip). Well, times have changed.

The AV is strong in my eyes and I couldn’t find any opinion on the net that contradicted me. So I’ll say the AV rocks.

SPYWARE REMOVAL

There are two kinds of spyware protection; on-demand and resident. A resident scan is always looking to make sure you won’t be infected by a known spyware. On-Demand just looks for an infection that has already happened and cleans it up. According to the manual, PC-cillin has both which, I wasn’t aware of.

According to the log, the residential engine was definitely catching a lot of spyware out there.

Then I tested the on-demand scan. First, I turned off some of my normal resident protection (Spyware Blaster and SpyBot’s tea-timer) so only Trend-Micro’s was running. Then I went to some questionable sites, the kind that usually have a plethora of software available for fee downloads (whether you want them or not). After about a week I ran some other on-demand scanners (AdAware and SpyBot) to see what it could find. Finally, I ran Trend-Micro’s spyware scan to compare what it found against what AdAware/SpyBot found. Trend-micro didn’t see anything that AdAware or SpyBot didn’t see. So Trend-Micro isn’t any better than a combination of freeware programs.

I was worried at first that the spyware-scan seemed to be weak. Later I learned they not only have more than I expected but they also are contributing to the Anti-Spyware community. It seems that a tool to combat one of the legends of spyware (the super nasty “CoolWebSearch”) is now being maintained at Trend-Micro. If you have the symptoms of an infection (slow-downs, being sent to strange search engines, etc.), but every other Anti-Spyware programs says you are clean, go to “http://www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder_download.html” and get the latest copy of “coolwebshredder”. CWSHredder is now a part of Trend Micro Anti-Spyware 3.0.

PERSONAL FIREWALL(PFW)

PFW’s have a reputation for being difficult to configure and real nags while they run. PC-cillin is definitely easier to set-up with “normal” configurations. It also isn’t quite as nagging.

Per-application out-bound control was missing. There was a time when ZoneAlarm was the only PFW to have this kind of protection, but now most do. But PC-cillin doesn’t have these capabilities and it doesn’t allow you to install another 3rd party PFW that does. (Read the “other reviews” section for more.) I also read on a forum that there is a difficult “hack” to get around this. So you’ve got to be an expert to use it well?

Ignoring my worries I ran two simple tests on the PFW. After turning my hardware firewall off, I ran programs that tried to get on the Internet to see what information could “leak” out of my computer, and I ran some test sites that tried to see if my computer even existed.

The two programs I used to look for a leak were “LeakTest” and “TooLeaky”. TooLeaky got through (the PFW failed) and LeakTest didn’t (the PFW passed). But then, according to Steve Gibson at GRC.COM, there are very few PFWs that can stop TooLeaky.

Photoshop CS2 Power Session DVD

A Show-and-tell for Experienced Photoshop Users.

By John F Donan, NOCCC

Then I went to Shields-up and Audit-My-PC. Shields-up reported that all solicited and unsolicited packets were “stealth” but it received “pings” so once again the PFW failed to provide complete protection. (Turning my hardware firewall back on eliminated the pings.) Everything was ok at Audit-My-PC except that it saw some information it shouldn’t be able to when I turned Java on. Since Audit-My-PC uses a technique that PFWs can’t stop, this problem is beyond PC-cillin and I won’t count this as a negative.

But, from what I have read, if you tried to install PC-cillin while another PFW was running, then PC-cillin wouldn’t install. It doesn’t have the option to run without the PFW enabled and if you try, PC-cillin will not allow any other PFW to run on your machine. In essence, they own you! You can’t do what you want on your computer. To be honest, this also means that it is harder for another piece of software to turn it off. Whether or not you like it is your call.

Overall, the PFW performed ok. But because of Trend-Micro’s arrogance I’m going to down-grade its rating to poorly. If you don’t care about Trend-Micro’s lack of manners, then their PFW is a good one.

VULNERABILITY CHECK

Here, it says that it looks for “known Microsoft security vulnerabilities.” I don’t know what they are looking for. I could have tested those that I know about, but it wouldn’t be exhaustive since I don’t know everything yet (emphasis on yet).

However, it does seem to keep track of Security Patches well. I let mine slide for over a week and it reported them correctly. I ran MS UPDATE and they went away.

A good showing, but with some qualifications.

OTHER REVIEWS

I went to several sites to see what others thought of PC-cillin. The overall consensus seemed to be that it has a rock-solid AV, but the rest are not the best. At CNET, there were three reviews, one reported excellent, one reported good (but it interfered with Microsoft’s PFW), and one reported poor (they claimed PC-cillin is a “resource hog”). PCWorld considered their Anti-Virus and their firewall to be the best on the market, but their Anti-Spyware is lacking. Another common complaint is that it interferes with other PFWs.

BOTTOMLINE

PC-cillin has an excellent AV, the vulnerability checking is an unknown quality, the patch management is very good, the spyware protection is mediocre, and the PFW is poor to good. So if you are willing to put up with its pushy attitude, Trend-Micro is a very good choice. Like PCWorld said, be sure to have another Anti-Spyware in place.

TOTREND-MICRO

The fact that heuristics, outgoing email and attachment scans, the fact that all file are scanned, and having a resident spyware scanner are major concerns to me. Not advertising them well makes the product look weak and I’m less likely to buy it. Something that would improve the product in my eyes is if I could somehow disable individual modules like the PFW.

Editor’s Note: According to the vendor’s website (<http://www.trendmicro.com/buy/us/personal.asp>), the software sells for \$50 (upgrades sell for half off), but it should be available for less at the usual outlets. ■

Using Photoshop is an ongoing learning process. Either a new version is released or you discover a number of features you hadn’t realized existed. I have had every version since 4.0 (current version CS2 is actually version 9) and have become frustrated at times, especially at the start. Its “hidden” features are not always obvious. I have sought information from all media but going through “photoshop cs2 power session” is my first serious attempt to learn using a video tutorial. Regardless of the media, mastering Photoshop (my opinion) comes from repetitive application of its features. Part of the difficulty in learning Photoshop is due to its size. There is so much there. In a 600 page Photoshop book I just purchased, there is a twenty-page appendix of keyboard shortcuts. Five hundred twenty seven total. These you have to learn a few at a time, as you realize their availability or usefulness. I have just now started using Shift-F5 when I want to fill a color into a selection.

The way I put this video to my best advantage was to employ two computers with a KVM switch. With the video playing on one and Photoshop available on the other I could halt the video, set up an equivalent situation in Photoshop, and give it a try, always knowing I could nudge the video back a bit if things didn’t come out quite right. I had a bit of trouble at first being unfamiliar with the DVD operations of my ATI video card, but after a few sessions all has gone well.

The video is approximately two hours long, close to half of it covers three of its eleven tutorials. They are identified as Bridge, Camera Raw (camera raw functions can now be performed within the companion program Bridge as well as Photoshop), and Adjusting Images (functions previously restricted to the camera raw plug-in can be applied to other formats such as JPEG). It is optimized for playback on a computer. If employed on a standard DVD player picture quality will be less than optimal. I repeated the Adjustments presented on one of my poorly exposed JPEG images and was amazed at the improvement. This new algorithm is much easier to manipulate than if the same results were attempted using Levels. The Bridge, a powerful browser/album, links to all components of the CS suite. Camera Raw can work on multiple images selected within bridge for things like white balance; a set of automatic adjustments can also be made.

The other eight tutorials are titled Workspace, Removing Noise, Spot Healing, Red Eye Removal, Image Warp, Vanishing Point, Smart Objects, and Additional Features. A helpful setting which was shown under the submenu Workspace is What’s New in CS2, which, when checked, it highlighted in blue every menu, submenu, etc. new in CS2. There were three other things which I was compelled to try as they were introduced in the video. The first was Spot Healing. I use the Clone Tool frequently and it is now joined by the Spot Healing tool which is especially useful in removing isolated objectionable entities.

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August Photos



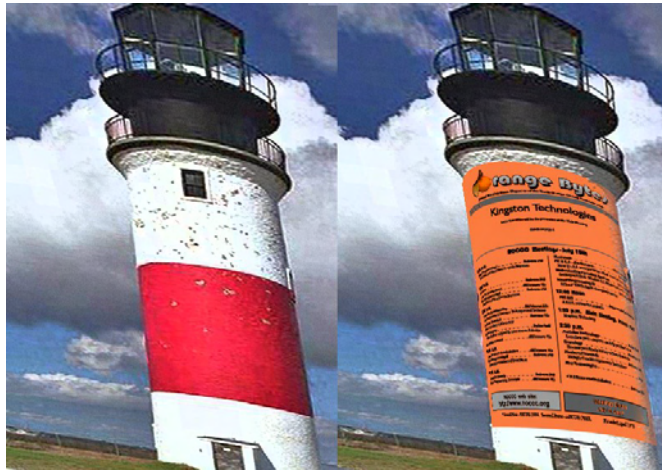
Terry Warren explained the ins and outs of VoIP at the Main Meeting. We may still not know how it works, but at least we know that it stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol

Photography by Larry Klees



This months raffle winners





In a photo I had of a hot air balloon race there was one white overexposed balloon which spoiled the whole picture. Paint over it and click and surrounding pixels take its place. It was as simple as that.

For the second, a before and after of a picture taken from the December 7, 2003 edition of the Orange Bytes shows what I did using Vanishing Point (found in the Filter menu.) The image was from a Microsoft Office 2003 presentation. After defining an area distorted by perspective I pasted the front page of the July 2005 issue of the Bytes. When it revealed how much too long the page was, I aborted the procedure and cropped its image appropriately. Upon the second paste it slid into place properly aligned. See the figures below.

In applying the third feature, Warp, I decided to place the same Bytes front page around the goofy looking lighthouse I had modified to use in this trial. On its own layer the front page image could be curled and billowed with ease. The quick and easy modification which I did is shown in the figure below. As with most Photoshop efforts there is always room for further fine tuning. For example, I could have brought out the window through the wrapped layer but this minimal example is enough to show the potential of this new feature. In the tutorial something similar is done on the rounded face of a building. With Warp you can wrap a tomato soup label around a telephone pole or the tomato itself.

There was not enough literature provided for my satisfaction. All that exists is a 5X7 sheet, one side is promotional information, and the other lists the eleven tutorials. Since the product is only weeks old, information is yet to appear in any quantity on the Internet. The product's ISBN is 0321358325, produced by KW Computer Training of Tampa, Florida. It was published in May 2005 by Peachpit Press. The author is Scott Kelby. He is also editor of Photoshop User magazine, and President of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. On the Internet at <http://xmlwriter.net/books/search/1-Scott+Kelby.html>, I found 46 books affiliated with his name.

These tutorials are intended for those who are already familiar with Photoshop. The list price is \$49.99; its price on the Internet is around \$31.50. I found the tutorials to be a quick and easy means of gaining experience in the use of Photoshop CS2. ■

lect. You can preview the changes or view the whole page via email, with changes highlighted. Choose the Web address of a neighborhood theater, to see what plays are coming up. Or see every new installment of a favorite newspaper column, without having to buy the paper.

18. GovBenefits.gov <http://govbenefits.gov>

A source of information on over 400 government-funded programs that extend benefits for which you may qualify, including compensated volunteering. Features a confidential questionnaire designed to point you to the most likely matches.

19. AddALL www.addall.com

Use this site to find the very best price for a book you want to buy. Unlike most other comparison sites, it figures in shipping costs for your location. Links will take you to pages for magazine subs, music CDs, and videos.

20. jux2 www.jux2.com

Jux2 lets you receive and compare search results from two or three different search engines, or see what you're missing from your regular search results. (According to the site, competing search engines typically share fewer than 4 out their 10 top results.) Still in development, it's currently limited to Google, Yahoo, and Ask Jeeves.

21. Medem Medical Library www.medem.com/medlib/medlib_entry.cfm

Searchable and browsable medical library, organizing contributions from 45 medical societies. Features a complexity indicator for each article, from "introductory" to "professional."

22. Metacritic www.metacritic.com/film

23. Kids-in-mind www.kids-in-mind.com Metacritic is an excellent source for movie critiques. For each film, it arranges its large variety of reviews from most to least favorable, and then tabulates the opinions, for an overall "metascore." (Additional Metacritic pages cover videos, music, and games.) For evaluating movies for children, or if you have a concern about violence, sex, or profanity, Kids-in-mind will rate and describe each film's content in those three areas.

24. CardRatings <http://cardratings.com>

This site maintains information on over 700 credit cards, and will suggest the best cards in a variety of categories—low or no credit, no annual fee, low interest, rewards/rebates, etc.

25. The California Patient's Guide www.calpatientguide.org

A well-organized extensive guide to Californians' health care rights, and what you can do if they're compromised. Assembled by medical, legal, and consumer experts, and published by the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

26. CheckFree www.checkfree.com

There are a host of good reasons for paying your bills online. It saves time, saves the cost of stamps, reduces the chance of late payment, extends the time in which you can use your money, cuts down clutter, eliminates the danger of checks lost in the mail, and facilitates tracking. With CheckFree you'll be able to pay many or most of your bills online, and the service is free to the payers.

27. Bug Me Not www.bugmenot.com

This site and the one following save you time and trouble while helping you cut down on spam. Bug Me Not keeps on hand log-in data (passwords with user names) for a huge number of sites that require registration. If you want access to such a site (like latimes.com), but don't want to bother registering, just visit the Bug Me Not site and log in easily.

28. Spam Bob <http://evil-wire.luvfeed.org/cache/1269>

Spam Bob offers a choice of three email addresses that you create, to protect your privacy. Anything@spambob.org is a phantom address, messages to which disappear into the ether. Use anything@spambob.com if you'll want to check on a reply message. (This is handy for registrations that require confirmation.) And you may want to use anything@spambob.net for all your correspondents. Mail from each such "net" address can

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SWUG

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tendees a minimum of \$40 if you register early, without the support of the vendors, it would be many times this amount. I would like to thank the following list of vendors that provided support to the conference. Many of them offer a discount to User Groups. Please browse their Websites in the following list and check out their offerings.

Addison-Wesley/Prentice
 Hall PT & IBM Press www.awprofessional.com
 Adobe Systems, Inc. www.adobe.com/ProfAssn
 AlphaShield www.alphashield.com
 Analytical Software www.mypctalks.com
 answers.com www.answers.com
 Antics Technologies Inc www.antics3d.com
 Apress L. P. www.apress.com
 askSam www.asksam.com
 Association of Personal
 Computer User Groups, Inc. www.apcug.net
 Association of Shareware
 Professionals marketing@asp-shareware.org
 Blue Squirrel
 Get 50% off! www.bluesquirrel.com/usergroup
 CaseAce Products, LLC www.caseace.com
 Cerious Software www.cerious.com
 CompUSA www.compusa.com
 ComputerEdge Magazine www.computoredge.com
 Corel Corporation www.corel.com
 Creative Labs www.us.creative.com
 Crucial Technology www.crucial.com
 Digital Photo Guy, Inc. www.thedigitalphotoguy.com
 Diskeeper (formerly Executive
 Software) www.executive.com
 E-Book Systems, Inc. www.ebooksys.com
 Epson America, Inc. www.epson.com
 ESET - Essential Security
 against Evolving Threats www.eset.com
 Family History DVD www.familyhistoryondvd.com
 Firetrust Limited www.firetrust.com
 Goldfish Software www.goldfishsoftware.com

H & M Systems Software www.studioline.net
 The Ink Dot www.theinkdot.com
 Intel Corporation www.intel.com/go/pcug
 Intervideo www.intervideo.com
 iolo technologies, LLC www.iolo.com
 Klasic Specialties www.klasicpecialties.com
 Laplink www.laplink.com
 LapWorks www.laptopdesk.net
 Linspire www.linspire.com
 LiteOn www.liteonamericas.com/us/index1.htm
 McGraw-Hill Publishing www.mcgraw-hill.com
 Microsoft www.microsoft.com/mindshare
 Net Fulfillment Technologies, Inc. www.nfti.net
 nik multimedia www.nikmultimedia.com
 NewSoft America www.newsoftinc.com
 NewTech InfoSystems, Inc. www.ntius.com
 No Starch Press www.nostarch.com
 O'Reilly Publishing www.oreilly.com
 Olympus America www.olympusamerica.com
 Palm www.palm.com
 Panda Software www.pandasoftware.com
 Peachpit Press / New Riders /
 Adobe Press / Macromedia Press www.peachpit.com
 PeoplePC, an Earthlink Company bwhite@peoplepchq.com
 Photodex Corporation www.photodex.com
 Pinnacle Systems www.pinnaclesys.com
 Preclick www.preclick.com
 Project Dogwaffle at TheBest3D.com www.thebest3d.com/dogwaffle
 Que & Sams Publishing www.quepublishing.com
 Right Seat Software, Inc. (Vox Proxy) www.voxproxy.com
 Roboform www.roboform.com
 SeniorNet www.seniornet.org
 Smart.com www.smarter.com
 Smart Computing Magazine www.smartcomputing.com
 Sunbelt Software www.sunbelt-software.com
 Sunbelt Software www.sunbelt-software.com
 TechSmith Corporation www.techsmith.com
 Total Training, Inc www.totaltraining.com
 Targus www.targus.com
 TriVista www.trivista.com
 Ulead www.ulead.com
 User Group Relations www.ugr.com
 Webworking Services www.whats4me.com ■

LIGAS Microsystems

Custom Systems - Consulting - Service
Cable and DSL services configured
Routers installed
sick computers healed

jsanders@ligasmicro.com

714-636-5523

NOCCE member 0019, Jim Sanders





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

Money Premium 2005 – Considered the top financial planning program this year with all the bells & whistles. From Microsoft. MSRP=\$80.

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.

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.

Norton SystemWorks 2005 Premier – This current issue from Symantec gives you powerful tools to solve PC problems and protect data. This easy-to-use suite helps you eliminate viruses, back up your files, and prevent computer problems. A new recovery disk allows you to recover data even when Windows® won't start up. MSRP=\$100.

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.

Undelete 5 Pro – Worry-free data protection with instant recovery—faster than going to backup. From Executive Software. MSRP=\$40.

PC Mover – A quick and easy way to move all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact. From LapLink. MSRP=\$50.

LapLink Everywhere 4 – Enjoy secure remote access to your applications, databases, files, e-mail and other Outlook or Outlook Express data, even if your PCs or network resources are located a world apart. MSRP=\$50.

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.

Currently Available Books

Adobe Creative Suite2: Classroom in a Book – This hands-on-software book/CD from PeachPit Press/Adobe Press covers the basic features of this suite and focuses on the synergies of the applications in Adobe's complete design environment. MSRP=\$45.

eBay Hacks, 2nd Edition – David Karp's latest edition of tips & tools for bidding, buying, & selling. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

QuickBooks 2005 – The Missing Manual – This thorough guide by Bonnie Biafore, examines the many features of the popular QuickBooks accounting software. Through dozens of insightful tips and tricks and a friendly writing style, it enables financial managers to quickly understand how to use the program's tools to implement and maintain critical accounting processes. Ideal for QuickBooks users of all levels. Published by 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

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

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

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

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

- I. Requirements:
 - a. Operating systems?
 - b. Processor/speed?
 - c. Memory, Disk space, Video & Audio?
- II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):
 - a. Was it difficult?
 - b. Copy or write protected?
 - c. Does it allow drive and directory selection?
 - d. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?
- III. Information about your system:
 - a. Hardware?
 - b. Operating system? Version?
 - c. Memory?, Video display?
- IV. Documentation:
 - a. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
 - b. Was it clear, concise and helpful?
 - c. Is there a troubleshooting section?
- V. Product Support:
 - a. How is the vendor's tech support?
 - b. Does it cost anything?
 - c. Is it a toll call?
 - d. Does the vendor provide free Internet support?
- VI. About the product:
 - a. What comes with the product?
 - b. What is the cost (list & street)? Any special deals for user group members?
 - c. Version number and release date?
 - d. How difficult is the learning curve?
 - e. Would you buy/use the product?
 - f. Do you recommend it?
 - g. What don't you like about it?
 - h. What improvements or changes would you like to see?
 - i. Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?
 - j. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

The following list of questions applies to books:

- a. What is the subject matter?
 - b. Does the book meet its stated purpose?
 - c. Is it timely? If it is a revised edition, what is new in the current edition?
 - d. Is the title an accurate reflection of the content?
 - e. What level of reader capability is required? Who will find it useful?
 - f. Is it easy to read and technically accurate?
 - g. Is it well illustrated and are the illustrations easy to view?
 - h. Are there any major omissions and why are they important?
 - i. How are the key points highlighted?
 - j. Does the book have to be read in chronological order?
 - k. Are there any accompanying extras (like CDs)?
 - l. What do you like and dislike about the book?
 - m. Is the author well known in this field? Does he/she have a web site for errata/updates?
 - n. Finally, do you recommend it?
- After you have answered these questions, you should have enough information to write your review. Please be precise but do not make it so technical that only a few people can understand. Please advise the Orange Bytes Editor if you need graphics, pictures, or illustrations to get your point across. ■

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guidelines for Submittal

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

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC



In August, we had an informative presentation on Voice over IP (VoIP) from Terry Warren, former NOCCC president, one of our early members, and an Internet guru from NetZero.

Vice-president, Herb Wong ran the meeting and introduced Terry Warren.

Terry began by asking how many people in the audience used VoIP. No one raised a hand. Everyone had something to learn from this presentation.

The first part of Terry's presentation answered the question "What is VoIP?" It is an alternative technology to our standard telephone network. It involves digitized audio data placed in IP packets using standard protocols. These packets travel around the world using the Internet's infrastructure. This technology also interacts with existing telephony infrastructures (like the phone in your home or office) for endpoint terminations.

The next question was "Why is VoIP important?" It is a low-cost alternative to switched network telephony (the traditional phone technology). It leverages Internet infrastructures (both managed and unmanaged). It has add-on extensibility via SIP (Session Initiation Protocol), with no added hardware costs. It also allows service providers to compete with the traditional phone companies (CLECs, RBOCs, etc.).

"How does VoIP work?" It's based on TCP/IP - a standard protocol suite. (It mostly uses UDP in the Transport Layer.) There are protocols for dialing, talking, and hanging up. SIP is used for dialing (session control). RTP (Real-time

Transport Protocol) is used for talking (media transport). Finally, SIP is used again for hanging up (again, session control).

Terry then showed us a hardware architecture diagram, detailing the physical components involved in the SoftSwitch VoIP system.

"How is VoIP deployed?" Customers must go through a Registration/Provisioning process, to obtain either Softphone applications (software) or Terminal Adapters (hardware) to use the VoIP system.

There are basically three types of plans offered for VoIP telephone service. Some providers offer it for free, but with a big limitation. It can only be used through a computer. Customers must use it with a web browser, speakers, and a microphone, as it is not connected in any way to the telephone company. Therefore, it can't be used with a regular phone connected to a phone line. You don't get a phone number using this method. You can't call anyone without access to a computer.

Other providers offer prepaid service, just as traditional phone companies offer through prepaid calling cards. This may allow you to use your regular home or office phone - and to have a phone number. Finally, providers also offer monthly payment plans, like most traditional telephone services. These generally involve using a regular phone and phone line, and having a telephone number.

For implementing VoIP service, many companies like Vonage, offer a hardware solution by connecting your phone to a Terminal Adapter. Others offer software solutions known as Softphone Applications. This is what Terry's company, United Online (owners of NetZero) will offer.

Terry said that United Online did extensive research to find and license what they deem the best Softphone Application available at this time. They are implementing that software in their forthcoming VoIP solution.

As far as the differences between hardware vs. software VoIP, Terminal

Adapters are simpler to setup and use, but offer fewer features (like Caller ID), statistics, and flexibility, than Softphone Applications. Softphone Applications require a computer but Terminal Adapters do not - they are directly connected to the Internet, much like typical NAT routers. As such, it might be costly to implement a Terminal Adapter solution in a house with multiple phone jacks. (Wiring would have to be routed from all jacks to the Terminal Adapter.)

Terry warned that a minimum constant bandwidth of 8 to 64 KB will be required for effective VoIP usage - and that whenever your Internet connection is down, you can't use the phone. CPU power is also required for Softphone Applications.

A member asked if you could do anything else with your computer while talking on a VoIP phone with a Softphone Application. Terry said that typical Internet surfing and basic functionality (like MS Office) would be available. However, bandwidth-intensive Internet applications like music streaming and game playing cannot be used. Also, CPU-intensive processes cannot be performed because some constant CPU power is required for the Softphone Application.

Terry mentioned a nice feature with some VoIP offerings: you can request a second phone number - or 'virtual number' - in another area code. If people that you often call reside in that second area code, then using the second number (local to them) allows you to incur local instead of long distance charges when calling them.

Terry finally dealt with "How is VoIP regulated?" The FCC is currently working on that. There are two major issues involved: Emergency 911 and CALEA (Computer-Assisted Law Enforcement Access).

Emergency 911 service is currently available on most, if not all switched network landlines. However, it's managed by different organizations in different areas, i.e., there isn't a central international organization managing it. Thus, it would be difficult for a centralized worldwide phone provider to implement 911

service. A key component of this service is the ability of law enforcement to locate people dialing 911. It's difficult at best to locate callers with cell phones (although regulations were just put in place to require this). In locating callers using the Internet and VoIP, more layers of complexity are added - and it could be impossible for law enforcement to find callers in a reasonable timeframe. Many lawsuits have already been filed about Emergency 911 shortcomings with various phone services.

CALEA involves the ability of law enforcement to tap into phone lines for criminal investigation. Telephone companies have long mastered the science of tapping into switched network phones. However, tapping into VoIP phones, with their many possible configurations (nonstandardized Softphone Applications and nonstandardized Terminal Adapters), is a brand new field. It will have to be developed quickly to keep up with the rapidly emerging new technologies.

Next Meeting - Bill Hersey and Bill Miller of Kroll Ontrack. They will be talking about data recovery in general and the EasyRecovery File Repair program in particular. ■

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Market Report:

During the month of July, we saw new four year highs in the S&P500, Russell 2000 and NASDAQ indices — breaking away several resistance levels and opening the way for higher levels. So far, the first week into August this has not happened. Looking at the OTM market indicators for a market top or change in the trend, the signals were mixed. The Market Turnaround Indicator charts show

the indicators are topping and about to turn down. I guess it is time for the Summer doldrums to take effect. Cycles are heading down and give a negative bias to the market. If this starts a downward trend, we might have to wait until the Fall months before there is a new upswing. We may have seen the highs for the year already.

Discussion:

Last month we looked at a new capability for optimizing signals and trading systems — IO, a very powerful program used with Amibroker that can optimize 20-30 parameters using AI algorithms and get results in under 15 minutes, depending upon the speed of your computer. This capability permits more complete testing of optima, by conducting in-sample and out-of-sample testing, and comparing results to build confidence in the model. In addition the IO program provides sensitivity analyses to determine how robust solutions are. By detuning a solution, the model may produce better performance over a larger range — making for models that work under more conditions.

This new optimization capability has given new life to some of the signals and models developed 10 —15 years ago. This was back when the markets were going straight up, and many trading systems were deemed successful because they got results. The use of optimization and lots of testing was not needed to get acceptable returns. However, after the market turned in 2000, a lot of these systems stopped producing good returns, and results went from 40% to 4% returns. One of the most common signals is RUTTR, developed by Werner Ganz in the late 90s, which could achieve returns in the 40% range for periods up to 2000, but only 4-5% for the years after. Recently, the RUTTR signal has been run through the IO optimizer, and now gets 25% for recent years. This has created new interest in the old signals developed in Trade and FastTrack, and converting them to AFL so they can be optimized and used in AmiBroker.

Presentations:

We took a look at methods for select-

ing funds, indices, and ETFs for trading. While these methods apply to funds, they are not reliable for stocks. Intermediate term stock selection depends on both fundamental and technical data. These selection methods can be applied for various time spans, 3 wks to 3 years depending upon the market period to be used and the planned holding period of the investment. We looked at Momentum as measured by the RSI- Stochastic, Percent Price Oscillator, and Compound Performance Return. These are trend following measures, assuming the trend will continue in the current direction. They also serve as a method of indicating changes in the trend and timing for selling long positions. Next we looked at Risk Adjusted performance methods using the Sharpe Ratio and Ulcer Performance Index. The last method was the NCAAlpha method, which measures how well a fund beats its index using relative standard deviation to normalize for volatility. Listings were generated for Sharpe, UPI, and NCAAlpha to show how lists of funds and ETFs would rank. Selection of the list's top 10 funds would be used in a watchlist of funds to buy when the time is right. Next, we will talk about how to use timing as part of fund selection and how to apply trading systems to the lists.

Foster presented results of a couple of trading systems developed using Rydex funds and achieved some great results, over 40% returns over 4 years. The trading system was developed using Monocle software. Vic discussed how he used the Bullish Percent Indicator on Stockcharts.com, getting him into some energy stocks at the right time. ■

PC Q&A SIG

By Larry Klees, NOCCC

For the August meeting Jim Sanders manager a new trick. He was in two places at the same time. He was in San Diego at the APCUG meeting and he was at Chapman University for the NOCCC

Continued on page 23

Meeting Reports

Digital Image SIG



By Larry Klees, NOCCC
August.

Note the *before* photo. It is in focus, properly exposed and miserably mediocre.



Loosely lassoed background. Feathered edge by 20 pixels.

Gaussian blur 4 pixels, Gamma .85, Saturation -15%



At the last meeting we examined how cropping followed by blurring, darkening, and slightly desaturating the background can turn a pathetic picture into a decent one. See *after* photo.

At future meetings we will cover some of the finer points and more advanced techniques.

September.

“Photographing Documents Behind Glass or RASCALLY REFLECTIONS & TRAGIC TRAPEZOIDS” Photographing

framed pictures or documents behind glass can be a real problem. Come learn some simple tips for getting good results. Also learn the difference between distort and perspective adjustments and much more.

Workshop and viewing. Bring your CD's, DVD's, Thumb Drives, or Camera Memory containing your photos. There should be time to show off your favorite creation or to make improvements or fix problems.

Future meetings.

Sadly Jim Morrison is no longer able to lead the SIG. Temporarily, I will be filling in while we try to find a replacement. If you have any topics you would like covered or any ideas for a presentation please contact me at lklees@dslextreme.com. ■

PC Q&A

FROM PAGE 21

meeting. He pulled this off by using graphics software and Microsoft's Photo Story 3 program to record an entire presentation on a CD.

The topic was about the “Rebate Game”. Most of us have all had to put up with the hassles of the manufacturer, rebate center, and store all blaming each other and us; leaving us with nothing to show for our work except a lot of misery. Jim's presentation walked us through the entire rebate and dispute process with detailed examples of all the documents involved. There is more to it than I thought and at one point I felt ‘this is like being a juror at the trial’. The fifty two minute presentation had photos, copies, dialog, a music track and was quite good.

The SIG members enjoyed learning about the rebate game, but I think they were even more interested in the process of creating the CD. Jim described this process somewhat, but take note: We are going to be seeing much more of this sort of thing in the future. Power Point isn't the only kid on the block any more.

We finished the time off with discussions of a variety of topics including things to look for when purchasing notebook computers and what to use as a pad for an optical mouse.

I have been doing some experiments since that time and am beginning to believe that one of the best possible optical mouse pads can be made with inkjet or photographic paper having a luster finish. I suggest leaving the paper plain or use an image with as few hard edges as possible. Then glue the paper to a thin sheet of stiff material. It's too soon to know how durable such a pad will be. ■

Assistive Tech. SIG

By Chuck Fete, NOCCC

Aug 7

The meeting came to order about 2:30 in the ground floor classroom in the Hashinger building.

There were two attendees. The one gentleman came earlier than the other and the moderator, Chuck Fete, and he discussed various problems he had with getting his laptop to perform the multiple assistive technology features that Microsoft advertizes. Chuck advised him on getting further modifications to his laptop to accommodate the assistive technology available on the market.

Chuck demonstrated his watch which could record conversations, upload MP3 files and perform like an MP3 Player/recorder and thumbdrive. This is a device which Chuck wears on his left wrist and looks like a wrist watch. But it is a full player and memory module for storing up to 256 megabytes of information. It has the record feature as well.

Then the other gentleman arrived and the discussion worked around to hearing problems and screen vision problems using a PDA or laptop.

Chuck said he was supposed to demonstrate a specialized seat configuration that works on modified cars and small trucks and vans. The assistive technology device comes in two pieces. One piece is the modified drivers seat. With it, the seat rises up (with driver in or not), then pivots left ninety degrees, then moves OUT of the car (leftward) by the width of the seat and then DROPS down to near

ground lever, adjustable so that the driver can step out of the seat onto the ground or slide out onto a waiting chair. The second part of the device only works with mini-vans which have a left sliding door, like the Ford Windstar. The door opens automatically and a small crane inside which has been preloaded with a folding wheel chair on its hook is rotated out of the door and then the cable unstrings depositing the chair on the ground next to the driver of the car.

These two devices can be used one at a time or in tandem. The cost to modify a Ford Windstar was about \$6500.

The Multimedia (or lack, thereof) in that classroom defeated Chuck and so the video was not shown. Perhaps at another meeting.

Bookmarks FROM PAGE 17

be forwarded to you, and if it starts generating spam, just cancel the forwarding order!

29. Google Maps <http://maps.google.com>

Head and shoulders above the competition, these maps are much larger and far easier to configure. Zooming in and out is quick as a bunny, and re-centering is instantaneous. You can locate by category businesses in the map area, along with their phone numbers. Note that (at least as of this writing) these maps are not implemented in the regular Google search results, which will still point you only to Yahoo and MapQuest maps.

Richard Johnson is a writer and editor, and founder/administrator of FREE FOR ALL The Skills Pool, a 29-year-old membership organization (<http://theskillspool.org>). He is a volunteer with TUGNET HelpContact for assistance with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and Gmail. You may reach him at rj@theskillspool.org.

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. ■

PRODUCTS FROM PAGE 18

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.

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.

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.

Classic Shell Scripting – The key to unlocking the real potential of Unix. A How To book by Arnold Robbins & Nelson Beebe from O’Reilly. MSRP=\$35.

Guide to Linux – This new book by Peter van der Linden from Prentice Hall takes the mystery out of learning Linux. It comes with the Linspire 5.0 CD. MSRP=\$40.

Moving to Linux, 2nd ed. – Marcel Gagne’s new book is dedicated to the Linux desktop experience for the average user. It comes with a bootable, customized Linux Knoppix CD. From Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$40.

Spring into Linux – One of a fast-paced new series of tutorials from Addison-Wesley designed to bring you up to speed quickly. MSRP=\$30.

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 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.

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

J2EE Security for Servlets, EJBs, and Web Services – This book by Pankaj Kumar from Prentice Hall is the defini-

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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	cjfete@cox.net	
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	joem@pvateplaamerica.com	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Digital Imaging	Irvine Hall		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.

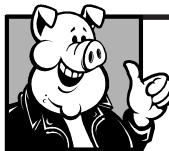
VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (<http://www.goldenbow.com>). Download a free 30 day trial to see how fast it will defragment your hard drive. Mention “Margolin” to get the \$30 user group discount or \$10 off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

Klassic Specialties – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, [http://](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> ■



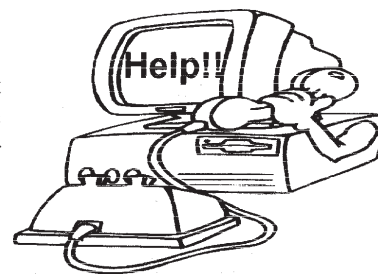
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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

FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed on the Internet, visit the *Classified Ads* section of our website at: <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.

tive 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$25.

Web Design Garage – This book has everything you need to help design your web site. From author Marc Campbell and publisher Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$30.

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

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

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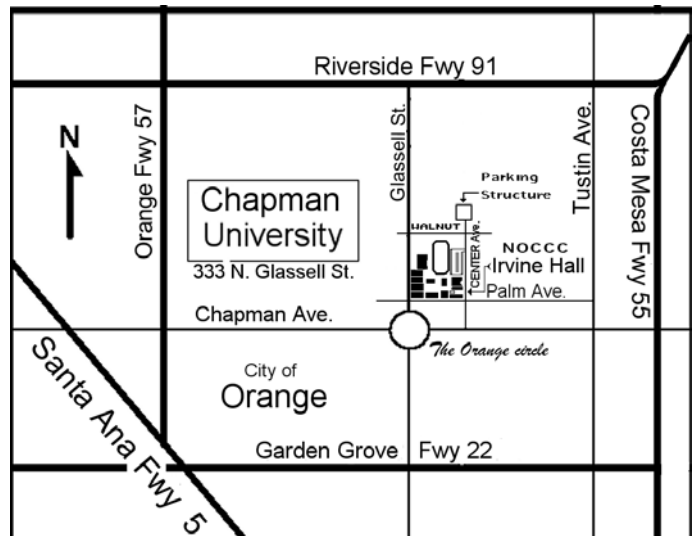
- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help with your current computer problems.** In the Random Access portions of the Irvine Hall meetings, you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.
- **The NOCCC HelpLine.** Some 20 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist with your problems, and are as close as your telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine.** Our Award Winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.
- **Raffles.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our New Technologies and General meetings.
- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD. Members reviews are published in this newsletter.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **Volunteer Work.** You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. *An all-volunteer organization*, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership committee, and more.

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

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

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

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



For current meeting information, please call
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