



range Bytes



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

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JANUARY 2006



Gene Barlow is an old friend of our club, make that long time friend. He was in charge of Customer Relations for IBM for Decades. Then he represented PowerQuest -- the Utah firm that did Partition Magic and other programs until Symantec bought them. But he has picked up some other clients and is a pretty good presenter. He will be showing us the features included in the new releases of Acronis True Image 9.0, Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0, and Acronis Privacy Expert Suite 9.0. To Gene's right in the photo is his lovely assistant and wife, Linda.

At the 1PM Main Meeting

January meeting details on page 4

NOCCC Meetings - January 8th

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
Computer basics for new and inexperienced users
Digital Photography Irvine Hall
Photoshop Elements 4.0 and ThumbsPlus 7.
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
Gene Barlow

2:30 p.m.
Assistive Technology Irvine Hall
Learn how your computer can help you live better
Genealogy..... Science 111
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials Science 109
Home Networking - Routers, Wireless Access, Firewalls
OS/2 News and Installation Science 203

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

Meeting Dates
Jan 8, Feb 5

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Silent Auction to Start in February

To raise money to help support the Club, we have approached a number of vendors for sponsorship. Quite a few have sent software for our Club to use to raise funds. Starting in February and continuing for several months, we will have a Silent Auction for these items, which will be announced in the Bytes ahead of time. You must be present to pay (grin). We will accept cash, check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Some of the items from a large vendor beginning with "A," sell for up to \$1,200. So keep watching our Orange Bytes newsletter for this latest program. A "practice session," with real but inexpensive items, will be held at the January meeting.



“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

I wish everyone a happy and safe New Year. This is the first time that we are having our Orange Bytes printed out of state. I hope that the quality of this issue is as good as the sample that we received from the printer. The big question is whether the time to ship the printed copies back from Florida will work out for us. The holiday season may not be the best test of this, but if the timing works out for this issue then there should be no problem with less busy times of the year.

By the time that you receive this issue **Smart Computing** should have the information from those of you who said you wanted to receive the 3-month free offer. I am looking forward to receiving my issues and having the chance to check out the Smart Computing web site.

We all had a good time at the NOCCC Christmas Party at the Margolin's. There was lots of food including an expertly carved turkey by our Vice-President Herb Wong. There were many of very good door prizes obtained by Ted Littman with **LapLink** being the biggest contributor.

I really enjoyed last month's General Meeting presentation by The Digital Photo Guy. His presentation would be rather difficult to follow, but Gene Barlow will have no problem. Gene always has lots of helpful information to enable us to run our computers fast and safely. Be sure to come to the January meeting and hear his latest information.

Now is the time to start thinking about what you can do to support NOCCC. If you are willing to run for the Board of Directors or any one of the offices, please let me know. If your expertise in some area that the club could use we would be very happy for any assistance that you could offer. An example would be if you have a contact for a speaker for the General Meeting. Maybe you have some expertise in web design or management and would be willing to give us some of your time. We always need help in opening and closing the club on meeting days.

Another fun way to support our club is to bring useable things for the consignment table. We all enjoy looking at the items and finding a treasure. It is also an excellent way to get rid of some of the things you are no longer using to make room for the Christmas presents. Selling your computer related items is a way to get some extra money. Donating the items to the club is a painless way to help the club get out of the red financially.

I hope to see you at the next January meeting. ■

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714-636-5523

NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



Membership 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!

User Group Offers

YEAR-END USER GROUP APPRECIATION 40% DISCOUNT COUPON INFO ON BOOKS FROM PRENTICE-HALL/ADDISON-WESLEY/IBM:

Visit: www.awprofessional.com or www.prenhallprofessional.com or www.ibmpressbooks.com.

Select the book(s) of your choice and enter coupon code: "USER-GROUP" ((it is CASE-sensitive!!)) at Checkout Step #3 (Payment Method) -- OFFER EXPIRES 1/10/2006.

TAXACT Software has a very nice User Group discount offer in the printed version of the Orange Bytes.

McGraw-Hill is happy to present you with a special offer just for User Groups on their SQLServer 2005 books! Please visit <http://books.mcgraw-hill.com> and enter promotion code AEUG511 to take advantage of the discount (valid until 4/1/06).

Here's the list of titles you can order/preorder:

Microsoft SQL Server 2005: A Beginner's Guide Regular Price: \$39.99. YOUR PRICE \$21.99.

Microsoft SQL Server 2005: A Developer's Guide Regular Price: \$49.99. YOUR PRICE \$27.49.

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Reporting Services Regular Price: \$49.99. YOUR PRICE \$27.49.

Delivering Business Intelligence with Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Regular Price: \$49.99. YOUR PRICE \$27.49.

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Stored Procedure Programming in T-SQL and .NET Regular Price: \$59.99. YOUR PRICE \$32.99.

Microsoft SQL Server 2005: The Complete Reference Regular Price: \$49.99. YOUR PRICE \$27.49.

AskSam - is offering their SurfSaver 6 places information from your browser into a searchable filing cabinet. Normally \$29.95, you can get it for \$19.95. AskSam 6 + SurfSaver 6 is a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally \$149.95 but you can get it for \$69.95. You can also download 30 day trial versions.

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

Corel - at the Southwest User Group Conference, Corel gave us the following link for special pricing to user group members. http://www.corel.com/promotions/cug_usd.html

WordPerfect Office 12 for \$149, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 12 for \$179, Corel Painter for \$229, Paint Shop Pro 9 for \$59, Paint Shop Studio for \$39, and Paint Shop Photo Album 5 for \$29.

Iolo technologies - www.iolo.com Offers up to 50% discount on all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

December Board Meeting Minutes



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

JANUARY 8TH MEETING PREVIEW

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG - 9:30 am - Larry Klees will continue the demonstration of the elements of Photoshop Elements 4.0. In addition, Larry will demonstrate the image filing and cataloging program ThumbsPlus 7.

COMPUTER ESSENTIALS SIG - 9:30 am - Elise Edgell, your club President, will be leading the SIG that is dedicated to helping new and inexperienced users conquer their computer challenges.

MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm, Irvine Hall - Our December Main Meeting speaker will be Gene Barlow. Gene will briefly present what is the best way to setup and organize hard drives. He will then give a short demonstration on the latest version of Acronis Disk Director Suite, a tool that will make organizing your hard drive easy to do. Next Gene will show you some of the latest

technology in web browsers and give you a short demonstration of Optimal Desktop Pro 5, one of the most powerful browsers available

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SIG - 2:30 pm - Leader Chuck Fete, 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 the Mail Washer and Laplink ShareDirect software packages will be the main prizes. Gene Barlow has been know to contribute a prize. Hedge your bet, wear your current membership badge and get a free ticket

THE MEMBER-ONLY PRIZE (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be a USB Adapter and Cable Kit and a computer tool kit with built in flashlight ■

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%.

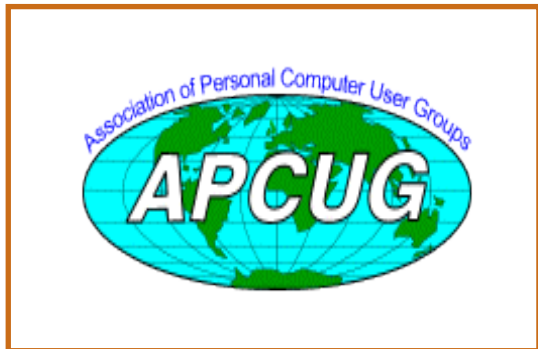
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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. As it is now illegal to put monitors or computers in the regular trash, you must agree to pick these items up if they don't sell.

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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Bluetooth Version 2.0

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

If you are a computer geek like me, when you see an ad for a widget that mentions using a newer version of a technology, it tweaks my curiosity. So I see this ad for a new Bluetooth V2.0 USB controller from IOGEAR that says it triples the data speed and I wondered what that really meant in terms of bytes per second. So I did a Google search on Bluetooth specification version 2.0 and <https://www.bluetooth.com> was the second item on the list with a news release page that amongst other things said:

“The main features of Bluetooth Core Specification Version 2.0 + EDR are:

- *3 times faster transmission speed (up to 10 times in certain cases)*
- *Lower power consumption through reduced duty cycle*
- *Simplification of multi-link scenarios due to more available bandwidth*
- *Backwards compatible to earlier versions*
- *Further improved BER (Bit Error Rate) performance”*

That was nice, but it reminded me of most political speeches that use a lot of words to say a lot of things. Then, when you review what was said, you end up with a handful of pleasant platitudes or acrimonious accusations and nothing concrete. I did find a reference to <https://www.bluetooth.org/> that promised more information. After some searching on that site, I found the Core Specification v2.0 + EDR. This turns out to be a 13MB PDF file of 1230 pages overall divided up into Books/Sections with their own page numbers. I did a lot of searching for some over-all speed definition without success. The maximum speed I found was 2178.1Kb/s, and many instances of 64Kb/s. In looking for the speed numbers, I ran across the following which you may find an interesting though somewhat convoluted read:

“BLUETOOTH SPECIFICATION Version 2.0 + EDR [vol 1] page 87 of 92 IEEE Language

1 USE OF IEEE LANGUAGE

One of the purposes of this terminology is to make it easy for the reader to identify text that diatribes requirements as opposed to background information. The general term for text that describes attributes that are required for proper implementation of Bluetooth wireless technology is normative. The general

term for language that provides background and context for normative text is informative. These terms are used in various sections to clarify implementation requirements.

Many portions of the Bluetooth Specification use imprecise or inaccurate terms to describe attributes of the protocol. This subsection describes the correct usage of key terms that indicate degree of requirements for processes and data structures. The information here was derived from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Style Guide, see <http://standards.ieee.org/guides/style/>.

The following list is a summary of the terms to be discussed in more detail below:

shall is required to – used to define requirements

must is a natural consequence of -- used only to describe unavoidable situations

will it is true that -- only used in statements of fact

should is recommended that – used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, but not required

may is permitted to – used to allow options

can is able to – used to relate statements in a causal fashion

is is defined as – used to further explain elements that are previously required or allowed

note <informational text ONLY>

For clarity of the definition of those terms, the following sections document why and how they are used. For these sections only, the IEEE terms are italicized to indicate their use as a noun. Uses and examples of the use of the terms in this section are underlined>.

1.1 SHALL The word shall is used to indicate mandatory requirements that shall be followed in order to conform to the specification and from which no deviation is permitted.

There is a strong implication that the presence of the word shall indicates a testable requirement. All testable requirements shall be reflected in the Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement (PICS). In turn, all PICS indicators should be reflected in the Test Cases (TCs) either directly or indirectly.

A direct reference is a specific test for the attribute cited in the text. For example, a minimum value for a given parameter may be an entry in the TCs. Indirect test coverage may be appropriate if the existence of the attribute is requisite for passing a higher level test.

1.2 MUST The word must shall not be used when stating mandatory requirements. Must is used only to describe unavoidable situations and is seldom appropriate for the text of a Specification.

An example of an appropriate use of the term must is: “the Bluetooth radios must be in range of each other to communicate”.

1.3 WILL The use of the word will shall not be used when stating mandatory requirements. The term will is only used in statements of fact. As with the term must,



will is not generally applicable to the description of a protocol. An example of appropriate use of will is: "when power is removed from the radio, it can be assumed that communications will fail"

1.4 SHOULD Should equals is recommended that. The word should is used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable without mentioning or excluding others. Alternatively it may indicate that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. Finally, in the negative form, it indicates a certain course of action is deprecated but not prohibited. In the Bluetooth Specification the term designates an optional attribute that may require an entry in the PICS.

Explicit specification of alternatives should be done when using should.

1.5 MAY The word may is used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the specification. The term may equals is permitted. This is generally used when there is a single, optional attribute described, but multiple alternatives may be cited.

The use of may implies an optional condition in the PICS and therefore may need to be reflected in the corresponding test cases.

1.6 CAN The word can is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical, or causal.

The term can equals is able to. The term can shall be used only in informative text. It describes capabilities by virtue of the rules established by normative text."

So my next thought was "Wow, that really was convoluted, and I still have no idea what normative text is." The above definition of how to talk to each other must be needed because: "The Bluetooth SIG is made up of over 4000 member companies, many of which are involved in the development of multiple wireless technologies." And would turn into a SIG of Babble without it.

Since the above was derived from the IEEE Style Guide, I thought if I went there I might find an answer. I found the following in the IEEE guide.

"10.7 Annexes

10.7.1 Order

Normative and informative annexes should be referred to as such [e.g., Annex A (normative), Annex B (informative)] in their titles and in the table of contents. Annexes should be referenced in the text by the word Annex and its letter only (e.g., "see Annex A"). Annexes should appear in the order in which they are referenced in the body of the standard (e.g., the first annex mentioned shall be Annex A, the second Annex B, and so on). Note that this rule means that normative and informative annexes will be intermixed. An exception to this rule is the bibliography.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Bluetooth V2.0

FROM PAGE 7

The bibliography should be either the first or last annex of the standard (in instances where an index exists, all annexes would precede the index). If a glossary exists, it should either be the last annex or it should immediately precede the bibliography (if the bibliography is the last annex).

10.7.2 Normative

Normative annexes are official parts of the standard that are placed after the body of the standard for reasons of convenience or to create a hierarchical distinction. In many cases, normative annexes are used for conformance test procedures or tables. Some standards place syntax definitions, lists of keywords, or printed source code in normative annexes. Normative annexes may also be used for context-specific applications of the standard. “

I found this information, though interesting, only confused me more. I decided it was time to follow my own often given advice and ask Google what normative means. The very first reference was from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normative>.

Normative

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

“In philosophy, normative is usually contrasted with descriptive or explanatory when describing types of theories, beliefs, or statements. Descriptive (or constative) statements are falsifiable statements that attempt to describe reality. Normative statements, on the other hand, affirm how things should or ought to be, how to value them, which things are good or bad, which actions are right or wrong.

It is only with David Hume in the 18th century that philosophers began to take cognizance of the logical difference between normative and descriptive statements and thinking. There are several schools of thought regarding the status of normative statements and whether they are rational and can be rationally discussed or defended, for example the tradition of practical reason going from Aristotle through Kant to Habermas, which asserts that they can, or that of logical positivism, which maintained that they were merely the expression of emotions and had no rational content.

Normative statements and norms, as their meanings, are an integral part of our lives, acquired through our native language learning process and other experience, in terms of prioritizing our goals, and organizing and planning thought, belief, emotion and action and are the basis of much of ethical and political discourse.

I wish I had scanned down the page to see the Standards heading as the above explanation left me really wondering what all this had to do with Bluetooth.

Standards

In standards jargon, ‘normative’ means “considered to be a prescriptive (you can go to Wikipedia and look that one up yourself) part of the standard”. For example, many standards have an introduction, preface, or summary that

are considered non-normative, as well as a main body that is considered normative. “Compliant” is defined as “complies with the normative sections of the standard”; an object that complies with the normative sections but not the non-normative sections of a standard is still considered to be in compliance.”

After all of that I still didn’t know what the speed difference was, so I went to the IOGEAR site and looked up version 1.2 of the Bluetooth USB controller and found its’ maximum speed listed as 743Kbs compared to the 2178.1Kb/s of version 2.0. So the next time you feel overwhelmed by computer jargon and acronyms, think what the poor engineers have to go through so that when you Plug, it Plays!

The New, the Best, and the Worst

Collected by Pim Borman, SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc. November 2005 swipcug@sigecom.net

Vista...

“A distant view or prospect, especially one seen through an opening, as between rows of buildings or trees.” (Dictionary.com)

It is also the name of the long-awaited next version of Microsoft Windows, not available until at least the second half of 2006 but already widely previewed and discussed in the PC magazines. What do we glimpse in the distance? Should we fight or switch?

The most significant improvement in Vista might well be security, stated to be a primary goal. Only time will tell – we’ll still be facing continuing patches, updates and periodic Service Packs, I expect.

New Internet Explorer 7 will be a major make-over, mostly to catch up with features long since available in Opera and Firefox. It will also be available to current Windows XP users. Windows Media Player gets a boost, but will also be available in Windows XP.

Vista will appear in 32 and 64-bit versions, to accommodate the new 64-bit CPUs now available from AMD and Intel. Visually, the windows will sport new folder icons that show thumbnails of their contents, although I wonder how they handle folders with dozens of subfolders and files. If your graphics card can handle it, the icons will also be semi-transparent, wow!

Originally, Vista was supposed to support a new file system, WINFS. I understand that this file system does away with branching directory trees to store files. Instead, files all get dumped in large containers, maybe such as the current “My Documents” areas. Instead of assigning unique file names you label the files with any number of suitable tags, similar to the labels currently used in Picasa2 (see the minutes in this issue to read about Larry Goss’s presentation in

October). The contents of the files are also indexed on the go to facilitate a search for keywords such as already provided by Google Desktop Search and Yahoo Desktop Search. Vista is expected to include a similar search function even before WINFS eventually is implemented. But WINFS will not initially be part of Vista.

As PC Magazine puts it "... it increasingly appears that Vista's differentiating features, aside from the sleek new shell interface, will be the ones that are less visible to typical users: hardened security, better diagnostics, and improved manageability in enterprise environments."

Vista will require an up-to-date computer system, with plenty of processor speed, memory, and graphics capability. Manufacturers of scanners and printers will surely provide the necessary drivers for newer equipment, but older peripherals may no longer work. Will it be worth the additional cost and aggravation to upgrade?

Dedicated gamers will love it – they need all the speed they can get, at any cost. Also, if you work with demanding graphics programs, large databases or similar CPU-intensive programs you'll probably want Vista for better support of multi-core, 64-bit CPUs. Media enthusiasts will love the new features, but why use them on a general-purpose computer?

For the rest of us, we're probably better off waiting until we need to buy a new computer that is almost certain to include Vista, whether we like it or not. At least we'll get it at a discount. I estimate that MS Windows, Office and Media Player contain at least 50% bells and whistles that are of no interest to 75% of its users.

Last year Microsoft announced a crippled version of Windows, called Windows XP Starter Edition, being made available at low cost in certain developing countries. According to CNet News.com (<http://snipurl.com/winstart>) the local versions of the program were made available in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Russia. Cost in Thailand was reported to be \$36, not including MS Works. Its intended use is in local schools for the obvious reason: catch 'm young. Read on...

...Or Else?

"The MIT Media Lab has launched a new research initiative to develop a \$100 laptop—a technology that could revolutionize how we educate the world's children. To achieve this goal, a new, non-profit association, One Laptop per Child (OLPC), has been created."

"The machines, which will run a version of the Linux operating system, will also include other applications, some developed by MIT researchers, as well as country-specific software. 'Software has gotten too fat and unreliable, so we started with Linux.'" (<http://snipurl.com/mitlap>)

These two quotes from recent MIT press releases point at new directions in the Computer Revolution. First of all, there is the realization that computers are here to stay as a basic necessity in a civilized society. To the three **R**s of basic education we need to add a fourth **R**equirement, computer lite**R**acy. The cost of general purpose computers has to come down further to

Silent Auction to Start in February

To raise money to help support the Club, we have approached a number of vendors for sponsorship. Quite a few have sent software for our Club to use to raise funds. Starting in February and continuing for several months, we will have a Silent Auction for these items, which will be announced in the Bytes ahead of time. You must be present to pay (grin). We will accept cash, check or credit card (Master-Card or Visa). Some of the items from a large vendor beginning with "A," sell for up to \$1,200. So keep watching our Orange Bytes newsletter for this latest program. A "practice session," with real but inexpensive items, will be held at the January meeting.

New NOCCC Membership Fee Schedule

As part of our efforts to increase club membership and provide additional resources, your Board of Directors has created an expanded fee schedule. We are particularly desirous of attracting young people involved or having an interest in computing. In order to do that, we have created several membership levels with reduced dues as indicated in the table below.

Additionally, we have an effort ongoing to attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. And, we are offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Membership level will be designated on the Membership Badge and Donators will be acknowledged in an issue of the Bytes.

Membership Level	Fee (\$)	
	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	50
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (1/4 Page)	465	
Business Member + Ad (1/2 Page)	800	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	
Membership Donations (\$)		
Contributing Member	75	
Supporting Member	100	
Advocate Member	250	
Patron Member	500	

WinBackup 2.0 Professional

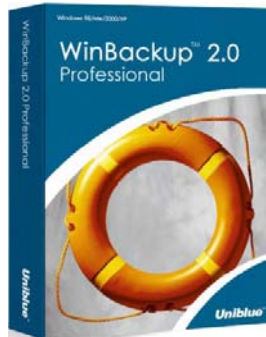
By *Ted Littman, NOCCC*

Backing up your data files regularly is essential to avoid sure grief if you use a computer, especially in a business environment. It also makes sense to back up critical operating system files and the files located in your Documents & Settings folder, which are usually on drive C where your operating system is located.

Although Windows XP comes with a backup capability, I prefer a nifty utility from Uniblue Systems (www.uniblue.com), WinBackup, which works well in both backup and restore modes and is superior to the one in Windows in features, ease of use, user-friendly intuitive graphical interface, and speed. According to Uniblue, "The enhanced encryption and data verification algorithms also guarantee data security, integrity and accuracy of restores." Data can be backed up to CD/DVD, Tape, hard drive, and shared resources from home computers, workstations, and laptops. The Pro software is targeted to the small & medium business markets and the 2.0 version was released in September 2005.

I use an external hard drive for backing up my data folders and files. Initially, I had WinBackup Pro 2 "copy" all of these and then set its Scheduler to run daily to back up only changed and new files/folders. I use the same procedure for my C drive. Full backups are scheduled to run on a weekly basis and then I delete the older files. Using the Scheduler avoids my having to remember to run WinBackup on a regular basis and I set it to start in the late evening when the computer is on, but I am not using it.

My computer is a Dell Dimension 8400 with a Pentium 4 processor running at 3.2 GHz. It has 1 GB RAM and runs on the Windows XP Home Edition operating system. I also have two large internal hard drives. One is reserved for all of my system and data stuff. The other, a Maxtor, which I added, is used for backing up my programs and running monthly backups of data and operating system files. While this redundancy may seem a bit much to some, my failure to have assured backups in the past caused me several times to lose valuable information and much time associated with



"regenerating" the lost files.

WinBackup 2 Pro's minimum requirements are a 400 MHz processor, 32 MB RAM, 40 MB free hard drive space, and a Windows operating system (98/Me/2000/XP). My copy of the program came in a hard case with one CD and a well-illustrated 8-page easy-to-follow "Quick Start Guide." The CD also contains a 50-page "User Manual" in PDF format and the program has the usual electronic Help menu. Uniblue also provides additional "library" assistance for its products on its web site in the form of white papers, tech briefs, and tutorials.

Installation of the program from the CD went quickly and smoothly and I was able to select the location for the program files. Then, I used the Quick Start Guide as an aid in running my initial full backup job. Subsequently, I set the Scheduler to run the periodic backups as previously described.

One caution should be heeded. Don't assume that the Restore function of your backup program will work OK when needed. I checked the Uniblue software's Restore function several times by restoring select files, folders and drives, but to a location different than the original, and it worked fine each time. Previously, when I was using a different program and attempted to run its Restore function, it didn't work and I lost valuable data files as a result.

WinBackup 2.0 is available from the Uniblue Website. Trial versions also are available free-of-charge by downloading. The software is offered in two editions at the following list prices: WinBackup 2.0 Standard \$49.95 (download) and \$59.95 (box); WinBackup 2.0 Professional \$69.95 (download) and \$79.95 (box). To view a comparison table of the features of the various versions of WinBackup, go to: <http://www.liutilities.com/products/winbackup/features/> ■.

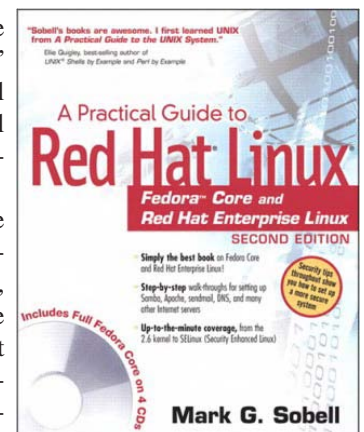
Red Hat Linux

By *Bill Allen, NOCCC*

The book, "A Practical Guide to Red Hat Linux, 2nd Edition," is authored by Mark G. Sobell and published by Prentice Hall PTR and provides two approaches to using Linux.

The first is Fedora Core which is pointed toward leading-edge software developers, system administrators, single users, etc., while the Red Hat Enterprise version is for businesses and other users interested in a proven, stable operating

system. While the book is written for Linux-experienced users, initial installation of either Fedora Core or Enterprise is fairly straight forward, even for one not familiar with the Linux operating system. I was able to complete the installation of Fedora Core though having no experience with Linux beyond playing with a free Knoppix CD.



The Fedora Core with Gnome desktop includes the Mozilla web browser plus Open Office which has subprograms for document development, spreadsheet work, presentation materials development, etc. Fedora Core also includes a range of utilities including a file management program. The experienced Windows user should have little difficulty navigating the Gnome desktop. However, venturing into the Linux file system or the Linux command language through the Terminal program (analogous to using the Microsoft DOS system) will require a working knowledge of Linux commands, which the above book does not provide; however, only a relatively few commands are actually needed to browse the file system.

The first three chapters of “A Practical Guide to Red Hat Linux” involve the installation of Red Hat and becoming acquainted with the Fedora desktop, file system and Internet connecting. The last three chapters cover system administration, setting up servers, and programming the Linux operating system. Since the operating system is written principally in the C language, building hardware/software interfaces for Linux should be no great problem for experienced C programmers.

With the wholesale reduction in hardware costs for personal computers, manufacturers could no longer afford to develop concurrently an operating system as well. Linux, being open source software, provides the needed operating system for those hardware manufacturers. Red Hat’s Linux Enterprise version covers the server field while its Linux Fedora Core covers the client side. Because of the Linux operating system design, Red Hat can support many client users simultaneously while running many different tasks, which has made it attractive to major corporations as well as the individual user.

The 1,090-page book comes with four CDs for a complete Fedora Core installation as well as the Enterprise edition. Fedora Core is not supported by Red Hat as is the Enterprise version. Enterprise requires a small monthly fee for support by Red Hat. The Red Hat web site at http://www.redhat.com/en_us/USA/home/solutions/gfs/states Red Hat Linux 9.0 is “the only native 64-bit cluster file system on Linux for enterprise workloads. In fact, the web site advises “you could manage a cluster of servers, as if it were one server [with the] Red Hat Global File System (GFS).” Red Hat Linux is considered a leading industrial- strength Linux configuration.

While the book is listed at \$49.99, it is available on Amazon in “like new” condition for about \$27.50. (Personal experience has been that “like new” books on Amazon, while considerably cheaper than “new” ones, have only minor cover blemishes, if any at all.) Whatever the price, to be able to install an operating system for server networked computers for between \$27 to \$50 is significantly less expensive than what Microsoft or Apple offer today. That said, today’s Linux packages are still not as user friendly for Windows experienced users and computer “newbies”. That said, Linux is rapidly accumulating market share in the computer operating system world. The future is becoming increasingly bright for all computer users in part because of Linux, including the Red Hat system, and is making more operating-system choices available at ever better prices.

This review was conducted with a 2.5GHz PC having 510 Mbytes of RAM and 160 Mbytes of hard drives, plus a wide-

band Internet connection and Brother HL-5140 printer.

Reviews Editor Note: User group members may purchase the book, (without blemishes) directly from Prentice Hall at a price of \$35 if they become a member: (<http://www.phptr.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0131470248&rl=1>). ■

Adobe InDesign CS2

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

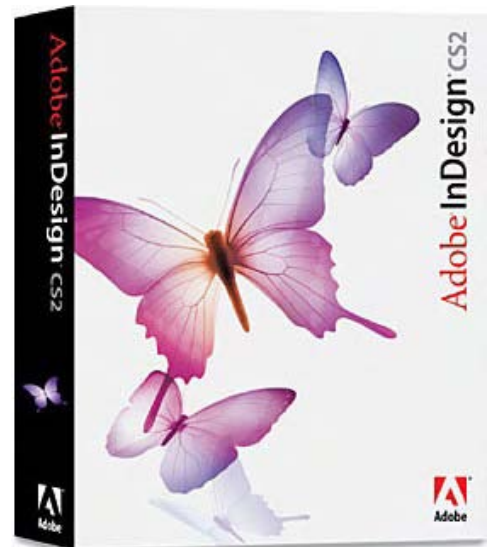
The program installed with no problems on my machine, a P4, 3GHz, 512M, large HDD.

Once the program was installed, before any reading of the manual or watching a tutorial, I had to perform one crucial test. That first test was to confirm that I could import the last edition of the Orange Bytes created in PageMaker

7 and stored in the “*.pmd” format. I clicked on open that file and it soon appeared on the screen in a completely new view. The first thought was, what are all those different colored boxes all over the screen? Looking closer, it was clear that all of the objects on the page had a colored box of its own. Having verified that the import seems to work, I striped most of the articles out of that file using PageMaker. I did several other edits that I commonly performed each month and saved to a new file name to create a boilerplate that I would import into InDesign CS2.

The first disappointment that I encountered occurred when I went to insert a practice text file that I knew was in a specific directory. The problem was that the Place Window that popped up didn’t show the file. I briefly thought my memory was failing before I noticed the “Files of Type:” box contained “Importable files.” I quickly clicked on the down arrow to see the full list of file types that were available. To my dismay, the Wordperfect “*.wpd” file type was not on the list. I get files with all kinds of weird embedded format codes. Using the Reveal Codes feature of WordPerfect is a great way to see and edit out that junk. With InDesign, I am going to have to start saving my WordPerfect edits in the “*.rtf” format.

After saving the file in the rtf format, I again said Place. A “RTF Import Options” window opened with a bunch of new things to learn. Accepting the default settings, I clicked on OK



Continued on page 12

Indesign CS2

from page 11

to continue with the Place function. InDesign created a new text frame in the column that I selected and filled it in with text. That was good, but what I really wanted was the auto-flow feature where it keeps filling columns until it runs out of text. It only took a few seconds to find how to do that in the help file. Being able to switch from single column fill to autoflow by simply depressing the shift key is a handy feature.

My next issue was to find how to apply styles to the placed text. Right clicking on the text no longer brought up the window that included the style selection. I first tried Help and searching on styles. That provided way more selections than I wanted, so I searched on paragraph styles. That brought up a table that showed how to access the Paragraph Styles Palette by using the F11 key. I was very happy to find that all of the paragraph styles that I was accustomed to using in PageMaker 7 were imported along with the PMD file that I had opened. Having cringed at the thought of all the work it was going to take to manually define forty plus styles, I was very happy to see that they were automagically just there!

From the menu Edit, Preferences, you have a choice of 14 sections starting with General. There are 109 major choices in those 14 sections. In these sections you define most aspects of your publication and how the program deals with it. A number of those 109 have submenus that add even more options. A minor annoyance is that F1 help is not available while you are in the preferences window. An example: I didn't know what a H&J Violation was and to find out I had to exit the Preferences window and go to Help to find that it refers to Hyphenation and Justification Violations. If you start stepping through the various sections it is very easy to encounter more publishing terms that you never heard of, much less know the meaning of. Starting at the top with General, I ran into my first instance of this. The third item on that page has the following line, "Always subset fonts with glyph counts greater than: (xxxx with a default of 2000)." When I encountered that I didn't know what it meant to subset a font. I didn't know that fonts had glyphs, nor what they were, much less that the glyphs had counts. After spending a few hours in this learning mode, I decided to hope the default setting would be OK for most of the things I would be doing and only investigate problems when they arose.

That Adobe InDesign CS2 software package, contains two CD ROMs and a printed manual. The printed manual is 412 pages long and like the PageMaker manual, contains quite a bit of information. My problem with the manual is that it seems to assume that I know a lot of things that I do not. As a result of this, when trying to learn about something that I have no knowledge of, I often have to go elsewhere to learn some of the words and core concepts that it is using. I would recommend that if you plan on using this program it would be a good idea to obtain an aftermarket training book and or video CD type of publication. There are also some very good

help files available on the Adobe website and I would suggest that you check those out as well. The first CD-ROM contains the program files, the second CD-ROM contains a selection of fonts, clipart, pictures, and example files for different types of publications. The example files for various types of publications can be very useful if you really don't have a solid idea of how you want your publication to look.

As is true with many large and complex programs, there are far more features and functions than most people will ever use. This is the class of program that a number of people make their entire living by using this program. I have often heard it said that modern word processing software has so many features that 95% of the time 95% of the people use 5% of the features. I would place InDesign CS2 in the same category. I am sure that there are a lot of professionals who make their living putting together various publications that use far more of the features than I either need or use in order to put together the newsletter for NOCCC. There are a number of features that can do spectacular things if you are printing in color or creating a color web site. As I noted in the beginning, my biggest concern was being able to successfully transition from PageMaker to InDesign.

The impetus for making the change was two fold. The first was the number of crashes that I was experiencing with PageMaker. In self defense, I had to save multiple copies of the PageMaker file as I was creating it. Typically, for each issue of the Orange Bytes, I would create about six copies. This is in addition to multiple saves within each copy. This procedure minimized the amount of the work that I lost depending upon whether it was a minor or major crash. The second reason for making the change was the announcement by Adobe that there would be no more updates for PageMaker.

On the plus side, after two months of use, I have not had a single crash with InDesign CS2. The amount of time that I have to spend in learning how to use this new program is significantly offset by the amount of time I have saved by not having to deal with recovering from a crash. Come to think of it, I should have said three fold, the fact that the mouse scroll wheel does not work in PageMaker was constantly irritating me. Being able to use the mouse scroll wheel to navigate within a document, instead of having to go to the scroll bar, saves a lot of time and motion. On the other hand, there are some features in PageMaker that I like better than the equivalent process here. Being able to access the styles menu by right clicking on text is one of those.

Overall, I am happy that I made the switch. There are far more pluses with InDesign CS2 than any actual or perceived negatives when compared to PageMaker 7. Some of my problems with PageMaker 7 were probably created because I found it easier to use the previous months file as the boilerplate for the current month after deleting old content. I read in several places that using that procedure in PageMaker 7 was asking for trouble and based on the number of crashes that I experienced, probably true. So far, InDesign CS2 doesn't seem to care. Over

time, I intend to learn some of the more powerful features that are now available to me.

The full version of InDesign CS2 has a MSRP of \$699 and a street price about a \$100 less. For a \$100 dollars less than that, you can get the Academic Version of the full Creative Suite Premium CS2. For the money saved, I would highly recommend taking a class or two at a recognized Community College that can give you the required student ID to get the academic package that includes all the software you will need to get into the publishing game. ■

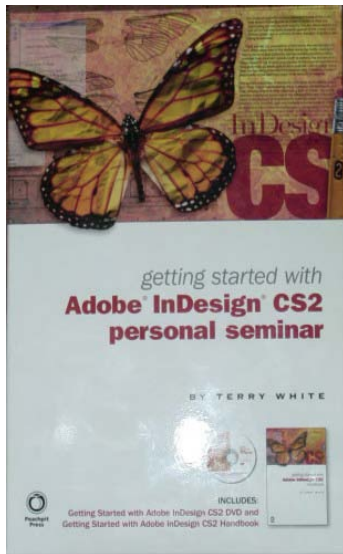
getting started with Adobe InDesign CS2

By *Jim Sanders, NOCCC*

The Adobe InDesign CS2 program is a significant improvement over the older PageMaker program. Indeed, this second version of InDesign is even better than the first. As with all complex programs, if you do not have a background in that particular subject area, the use of specialty concepts and words can be very confusing. Although the InDesign package itself has a very extensive manual and a fair amount of tutorials included, if you are a beginner it can still be very confusing. Reading about how something is done is often not as effective

as seeing it done along with narration. The package that I am reviewing, getting started with Adobe InDesign CS2 personal seminar, is a combination package. It includes a DVD video presentation/tutorial as well as a printed book that includes a number of projects. The presenters name is Terry White and he has been with Adobe for seven plus years.

When placed in the DVD drive, the video auto-starts in WinXP Media Player on one of my computers and in Power DVD on a second WinXP computer. According to the narration on the video, the package is intended for both the newbie and a user with some experience in the field. The comment is made, that if you are switching over from some other program this could be particularly useful. The video starts out with a discussion of the new bridge feature that is included in InDesign CS2. The video then goes into how to open a file and set up some of the parameters that you are going to use for that project. Terry makes the key point that InDesign is a frames



based program and whether you create a frame or it creates one for you automatically there nonetheless will be frames. He then goes into the different types of frames that you can create and what their uses are.

Terry points out that a lot of the power of InDesign is in its ability to manipulate frames in many different ways. Whether the frame contains an image or text, there are many ways that the frames can be manipulated. One of the ways that I have found that feature useful is the layers function that allows me to choose how I stack photographs one on top of or behind another. From that point, Terry goes into how to create and use templates, nested styles, object styles, the quick apply feature, word files, new text features, anchored objects, snippets, PDFs and more.

The ability to pause the video and switch to the InDesign window to try what was just shown is a powerful learning tool. Actually performing the actions depicted on the video goes a long way towards burning that knowledge into ones grey matter. The one thing that I wished for during this exercise was finer resolution and easier to use DVD player controls. Some points were not clear the first time I watched and listened to particular step and it would have been nice to rewind say 30 seconds to repeat a point. This is one of those scenarios where having a second computer to play the DVD while practicing on the first would be great. Alternately, having a system with two separate displays would work just as well. In either of those two cases you would be able to still see the video image as you practiced the skill yourself.

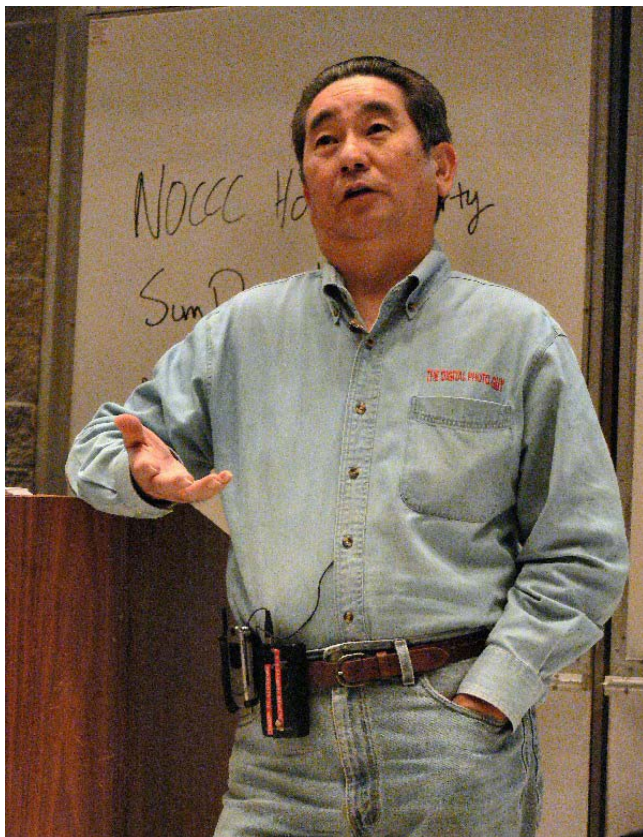
In contrast to the DVD, the printed book that accompanies the DVD is not for beginners. Each of the ten subjects in the book fall into what I would consider to be an advanced area and all of them are different from what is covered on the DVD. The first project shows how to use the new Adobe Bridge feature to build and print a contact sheet with a variable number of rows and columns. The second article deals with a fun project. It shows how to have a picture show through the broad area of a font while a second background shows between and around the text.

I would recommend this tutorial to a InDesign CS2 beginner. Even though he makes a good effort to cover most of the points that would confuse a newbie, most newbies are still going to be confused until they go through it a few times. Using terms and concepts that a newbie doesn't know, or doesn't understand, is tough to avoid without getting too basic for the audience that this is aimed at.

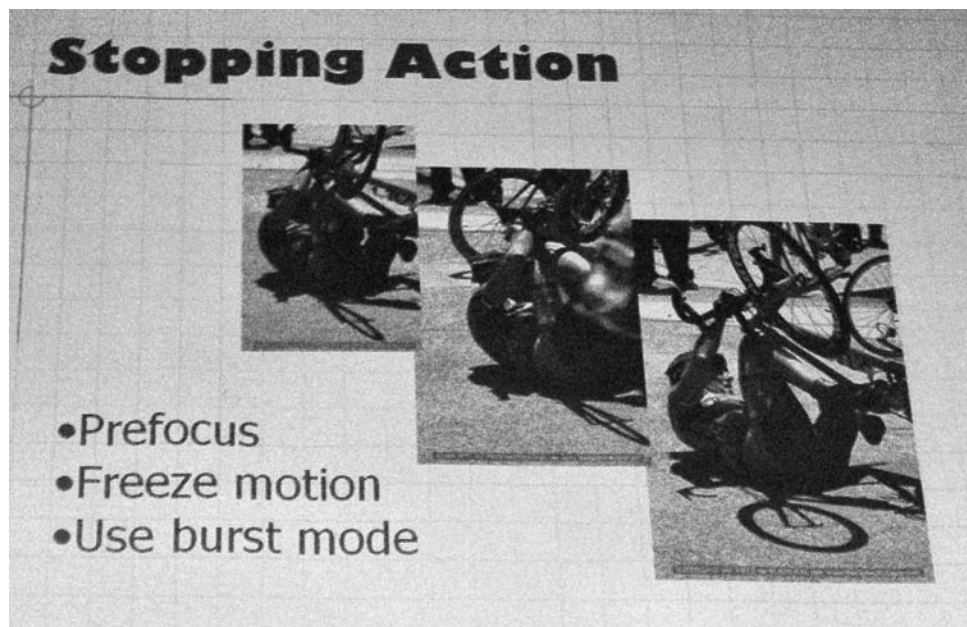
getting started with Adobe InDesign CS2 is available from Peachpit Press, 1249 Eighth St., Berkeley, CA 94710 800-283-9444 <http://www.peachpit.com>. The MSRP of the package is \$45, the street price is \$30. Peachpit Press is a User Group sponsor and offers discounts to members. See the membership benefits column in the Bytes. ■

December Meeting Photos

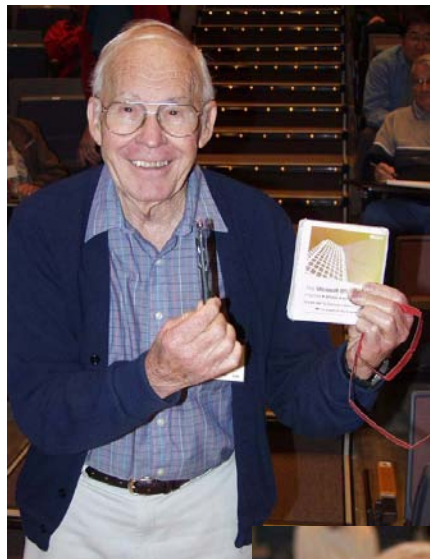
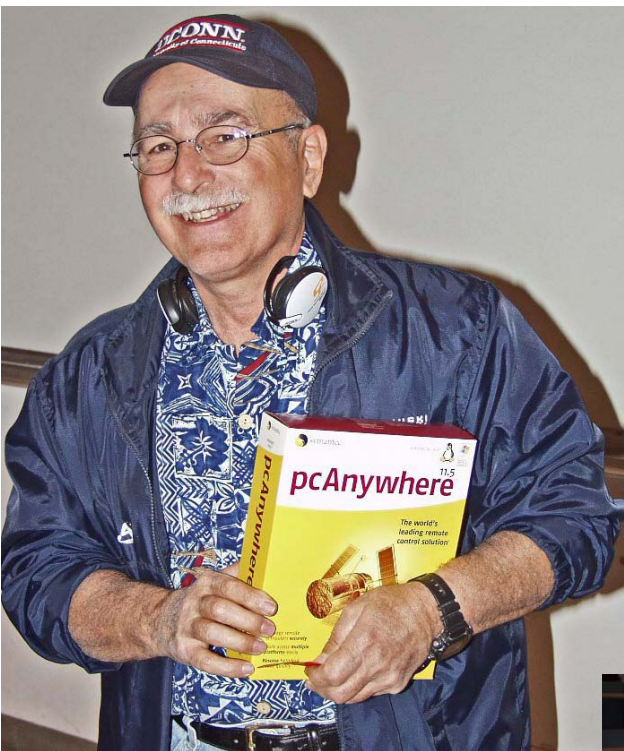
Lee Otsubo gave us a lot of good tips on how to take better pictures this Holiday Season



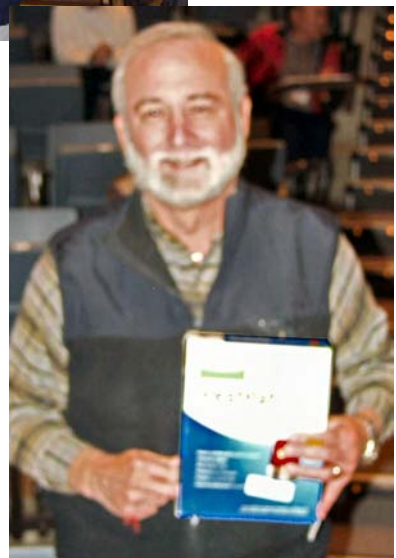
A slide from Lee's presentation



Photography by Larry Klees and George Margolin



The winner of the printer was in too big of a hurry to go look at his new toy to wait for his picture to be taken. Larry Klees apologizes for a couple marginal photos, his batteries were dying.



Why I Bought a Toshiba Satellite M55- S139

By *Elise Edgell, NOCCC*

It was finally time for me to buy a notebook computer. Could I live without one? Yes, but did I want to? No! The next task was to decide what features I really needed. This was a very important list to make because some features really increase the cost of the notebook and if they are features that I am not going to use then I will pay more than I need to for the features I do use.

I wanted a notebook that was not too heavy. I am not traveling so I did not have to pay extra for a very light notebook. On the other hand, I don't like to carry one that is uncomfortable. I already have a handbag that weighs more than I like (PDA, cell phone, sunglasses, prescription glasses, wallet, keys, pens, lipstick, business cards, etc). Some notebooks weight 7 pounds or more. Some weight as little as 2 pounds. The Toshiba Satellite M55-S139 weights 5.2 pounds. This seems like a reasonable compromise.

Then there is the question of the screen size and shape. I had already decided that I wanted the widescreen. Very small screens on very small, light notebooks cost a premium. Most screens start at 14 inches and go to 17 inches or larger. The Satellite has a 14-inch screen and the TRU-BRITE display (which gives wonderful color). Since a larger screen weighs more, I decided that the 14-inch screen was sufficient for my needs. Now that I have had a chance to really use the notebook in my home, I really like the screen. It is very clear and I have no problem reading text. When using Word, the wide screen also gives room for the Task panel to be displayed beside the text and still have the full width of the text shown on the screen.

One large decision was the processor used in the laptop. The Satellite has an Intel Celeron M 1.60 GHz processor. It is not the latest technology. It is not as easy on the battery as an Intel Centrino combination. If I wanted the notebook for playing games it is not fast enough (although it is fast enough to play the puzzle type games I prefer). This is one area where I really would have liked more speed, but I really didn't need the faster processor and the price difference helped me to decide on the model I purchased.

The lower cost notebooks come with 256MB of RAM. This is not adequate for good performance. The Satellite came with 512MB, more can be added later if needed.

The size of the hard disk is 80GB. I have a tendency to

put a lot of programs on my computer so I wanted a good size hard disk. Again, the less expensive notebooks typically have hard drives of 40B or less. It is possible to put a larger drive in later but hard disks for notebooks still cost a lot more than comparable size drives for desktops.

One feature that I was not happy about was the video which uses shared memory. This really slows down the computer when processing video information. I do not need to use this computer to edit video or to stitch photos together. This is a compromise that I was willing to make.

One of the features which the Satellite came with was the dual layer DVD everything type drive. I really wanted a notebook that had the capability of burning a DVD. This is a feature that I have not fully tested yet. It does play CDs and DVDs that I have tried on it. The less expensive notebooks do not come with DVD burning capabilities; some do not even come with a DVD reader. The way of the future is DVD and having a notebook that can not read one seems like a very large negative.

The Satellite came with Windows XP Home Edition. I would have preferred Professional but can live with Home. It also has built in 802.11 b/g wireless, 3 USB 2 ports. It has no firewire port but since I don't have a device to connect with firewire that was not a deterrent. I can always add one with a PC card if needed. The battery life is not long but I probably won't use it without plugging it in very often. If I later decide I need longer battery life I will purchase a larger battery (which also increases the weight of

the notebook).

In deciding that this was the notebook for me, the largest deciding point was the price. I got most of what I wanted, all of the things that I felt I needed, and the price was in the range of the under-featured low cost notebooks. In week that I have been using the Satellite I am pleased with it. Probable the thing that I am enjoying the most is the screen. So far I am pleased with my choice of notebooks. ■



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. **THE CAFETERIA IS CLOSED IN JAN.** ■

Membership Benefits

FROM PAGE 3

products through 12/31/05. Call Iolo at 1-877-239-4656 to order. To order online, use the coupon code SWUG. You can download 30 day trial versions, with the offer good till December 31, 2005. System Mechanic \$25, System Mechanic Professional \$35, Macro Magic \$20, Search and Recover \$20.

Laplink – www.laplink.com - Laplink Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. An annual 3-PC license normally sells for \$129.95. Use coupon code LLE4THRTY at checkout and get it for \$30. Their PCmover program, for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact, is normally \$39.95. Use coupon code PCMVRTEN and get it for \$10.

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.

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 30% discount (and possibly free shipping). User Group discount code is DSUG.

RoboForm is a Password Manager and web form filler for storing your online passwords and automates entering passwords. You can download a complimentary version at www.robiform.com/corts. If you want to upgrade to the PRO version before September 30, 2005 use the coupon code CORTS and get 10% off.

Smart Computing - www.smartcomputing.com For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, our group will receive one credit. When the group has accumulated 5 credits (subscriptions), Smart Computing will donate one subscription to the group (great to use as a raffle prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.). Call customer service at 1-800-733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

Techsmith www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp using promotion code PRESBN05 you can get SnagIt (screen capture program) and Camtasia Studio (quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations). Bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings. ■

Main Meeting

FROM PAGE 21

useful editing tool available.) Balancing involves getting the right mix of light and dark in your photos, similar to brightness/contrast on a copy machine or computer monitor.

Sharpening involves emphasizing the edges of subjects in photos, or trying to make them look as crisp and clean as possible. Unfortunately, once a shot is taken, you can't improve on the focus used for it. However, photo-editing software tends to have a useful tool called the USM, or UnSharp Mask, which Lee recommended for improving sharpness.

For photo editing software, Lee recommended what he called the "mother of all auto editors" -- DCE AutoEnhance. It is THE software of choice for editing photos in batches. With it, he said you can typically process 1,000 photos per hour.

Of course, you normally shouldn't crop photos in batches. However, DCE is excellent for managing brightness and sharpening details in batch mode. It can also resize or compress photo files in batch mode, for downloading them to the Web and e-mailing them to friends.

Lee showed us how DCE AutoEnhance is used and briefly explained some of its most important settings for brightness, sharpness, and file compression.

The final important goal for Sharing and Displaying Memories is printing your pictures. Lee recommended an important piece of software for this: PixPrint. It is good, fast, and cheap!

PixPrint provides an easy-to-use wizard for printing pictures. It allows you to crop them before printing. (Lee said that native Windows XP tools are terrible for printing -- as they crop your photos automatically, usually with bad results.) He showed us sample screen shots of PixPrint and briefly explained how it works.

Finally, Lee said that he put together a CD with the 35 most useful tools he found for the digital photographer. Regular price for this CD was \$35.00 and he was offering it to NOCCC members for only \$24.00. He was also offering "DigiCue cards" -- cheat sheets that summarize many of the concepts he covered in the presentation. Some of them also detail recommended settings for DCE AutoEnhance and PixPrint. (These cards are water, tear, and fade resistant.)

He was also selling his special tutorial and presentation CDs that explain in detail many of the concepts he covered, including the "rule-of-thirds" for aiming properly at your subjects. A handout was distributed, explaining all of his offerings.

These offerings -- Lee's 35 most useful tools CD, DigiCue cards, and the tutorial and presentation CDs -- are also available on Lee's website, www.thedigitalphotoguy.com.

After Lee's presentation, several nice prizes were raffled off -- including an HP 6520 color inkjet printer!

Next Meeting – THE Gene Barlow – formerly of IBM and now with his own company UGR (User Group Relations) will make his yearly, always interesting presentation on the latest products from innovative companies, he represents. ■



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

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.

Easy Media Creator 8 Suite - With fully integrated technology from over twenty premium products, this new Suite from Roxio enables you to edit, back up, burn and copy all of your video, photos, music, and data seamlessly. 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 Internet Security 2006 – This

highly-rated suite from Symantec contains AntiVirus, Personal Firewall, Privacy Control, AntiSpam, & Parental Control security programs. MSRP=\$70.

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

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.

Currently Available Books

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.

Access 2003 for Starters: The Missing Manual – Everything you need to set up and run, this new book is authored by Kate Chase & Scott Palmer and published by Pogue Press/O'Reilly. MSRP=\$20.

Excel for Starters– The Missing Manual – Everything you need to create and use spreadsheets, this book is authored by Matthew MacDonald and published by Pogue Press/O'Reilly. MSRP=\$20.

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.

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

eBay: The Missing Manual – Another good book on eBay from O'Reilly/Pogue Press, authored by Nancy Conner and issued Aug. 2005. MSRP=\$25.

Google Power: Unleash the Full Potential of Google - Chris Sherman provides hundreds of tips and techniques to help anyone become a Google power searcher. He explains Google's advanced features and capabilities in plain language, with numerous examples demonstrating a wide variety of practical and valuable web search techniques. Throughout the book, the emphasis is not just on finding information but on finding the most useful information possible. Some of the Google power-searching strategies and techniques readers will learn include: how to mine hidden business information and competitive intelligence, conducting a “checkup” on medical professionals, examining their past records, disciplinary

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Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The article at the following link provides suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes and for submittal. Please read both. <http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html> **Important!** Please follow the below link to the NOCCC website and read the article on submittal. <http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html> ■

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

NOCCC has a new benefit program for members – the **Club Library**. Members may check out books at the Reviews & Library Desk at the monthly meeting for a period of one or two months for a nominal fee of \$2 for one month or \$3 for two months. A security deposit (equal to the list price of the book) must be posted. When the book is returned in good condition, the deposit is refunded. **No review is required**; however, if the member decides to submit one for publication in the Orange Bytes, the fee will be returned.

The list of available books is as follows:

Windows XP Hacks, 1st Edition – 100 smart, time-saving and useful tips and tricks for virtually every feature in Windows XP Home & Pro editions. From O’Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

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

Building the Perfect PC – This book by Robert Bruce & Barbara Thompson delivers end-to-end instructions, simple enough for even the most inexperienced computerist, for creating your ideal machine. Five different classes of machines are covered with full descriptions of all items and options. From O’Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

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

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

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

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

Linux Programming by Example – This

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

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

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

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

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

The Official Samba – 3 How to & Reference Guide, 1st Ed. – From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$50.

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

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

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

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

Biometrics for Network Security – Authored by expert Paul Reid, this book covers

options ranging from fingerprint identification to voice verification to hand, face, & eye scanning from a practitioner’s viewpoint. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Outsource: Competing in the Global Productivity Race – This hardcover book by Edward Yourdon presents a balanced view of why outsourcing is occurring, how it is likely to impact people’s lives, and how best to prepare career-wise for the new realities it introduces. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$28.

Project 2003 Personal Trainer – You can become the Project Superhero in your office with this easy-to-follow training manual with an interactive simulation CD. Published by O’Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

Will Wheaton: Just a Geek – Will Wheaton, a regular on the Star Trek series, tell all in this book from O’Reilly. MSRP=\$25. ■

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC



Lee Otsubo, AKA The Digital Photo Guy, gave us another informative (and entertaining) presentation in December. Lee said this presentation was actually Part 2, continuing where he left off last time (which was in October 2004).

President Elise Edgell ran the meeting. A vote was required to decide if membership dues should increase to cover our ever-increasing expenses and help bring the club financially out of the red. Elise actually conducted two quick votes to see if the members would approve a \$5.00 and a \$10.00 increase, respectively. With a show of hands, the members approved the \$5.00 increase but declined the \$10.00 increase. Now our dues are officially \$35.00 a year. (This is still much cheaper than that of other computer clubs -- and it's the first time a dues increase has taken place in over 11 years!)

Cathy Margolin mentioned our annual Holiday Party at the Margolin residence on December 11th.

George Margolin introduced Lee Otsubo. Lee is an engineer turned sales/marketing executive who has spent over 35 years in high technology and finally decided to do what he enjoys. He now spends his time researching digital camera technologies and techniques so he can present the most up-to-date and useful information to digital camera users. This information is offered via free workshops at timeshare resorts, PC user groups, computer clubs, RV parks, and cruises. Lee mentioned that he's been presenting these workshops for about four years.

Lee displayed the title of his presen-

tation: "Digital Photography -- Get the Photo You Want." Then he laid out the main points he would be covering, as follows:

- 1) Prepare your camera (by optimizing its capabilities);
- 2) Compose and take photos (making the most of each photo opportunity); and
- 3) Share and display memories (edit and enhance all photos; post-processing is the secret).

In terms of preparing your camera, Lee first mentioned that you should set it for the best image -- using the highest resolution and best quality. He said you should also set key controls. There's the MODE DIAL, which allows you to choose a preset scene mode, providing optimal settings for the type of picture you want to take. In terms of the SHUTTER RELEASE, you should put it in Burst Mode for action shots (discussed later). You'll also want to set LENS CONTROLS, providing a macro for close-up shots. Finally, he mentioned the all-important 4-WAY SWITCH, which allows you to navigate your on-screen menus and select your settings. It's like a mouse for your camera.

Above all, Lee recommended **READING YOUR MANUAL** if you are not familiar with the many possible features and settings of digital cameras. They are considerably more complicated than cameras used to be.

Lee's second main topic was Composition and Technique. For this, he first told us to "Fill the Frame." Use all available pixels and reduce background clutter. He also advocated **CROPPING** -- trimming away unnecessary parts of pictures, parts that don't support the main subject. He said that just about every photo can benefit from cropping.

Lee said to use the "rule-of-thirds" when aiming at your subject. Basically, he explained this to mean that the photo will look better if the main subject is not in the very center. It is better when placed near one of the corners. He showed us examples of this.

According to Lee, "Fill Flash is your

friend." He said it's usually good to use a flash to lighten a darker image -- even during broad daylight. (Shadows can cause bad pictures, even when the rest of the scene is bright and sunny.) Digital cameras tend to have a "flash exposure compensation" control, which helps ensure a good picture no matter how bright the actual scene is.

Lee covered how to photograph people and objects in motion. First, he suggested setting the camera to Sports/Action mode -- a fast shutter freezes motion. Second, pre-focus to minimize the "AutoFocus" delay. (This occurs after you press the button to take a picture. There is a delay before the photo is taken, as the camera tries to focus on the scene.) To pre-focus, you half-press and hold the shutter to lock your focus.

Third, set "burst/continuous" mode. This allows the camera to take several shots in rapid succession -- especially useful for subjects in rapid motion. (Out of all the burst/continuous pictures taken, you may only want one or two -- and that's fine. With digital cameras, it's easy to discard pictures you don't want.) For even greater flexibility in capturing people/objects in motion, many digital cameras even have a "movie mode."

Lee explained how to take photos of photos -- thereby converting prints to digital. He suggested photographing them using **TRANSLUCENT** containers (Tupperware, for example) -- to diffuse the surrounding light. You simply need to cut a hole in the bottom of your container, turn it upside-down, and put it over the photo. (This covers the photo and cuts off excess surrounding light.) Then you point your camera through the hole and shoot the picture. He said to watch the minimum focus distance. Cameras cannot focus on a subject if you get too close. (Deep opaque containers are best for this purpose.) For curled photos, he suggested straightening them out under glare-free glass.

He also briefly explained converting slides to digital. There is a special adapter he recommended for this purpose. It can be obtained at www.photosolve.com. Using it, you can photograph

each slide with your digital camera in as little as 3-5 seconds. Such photographs almost always need cropping.

Lee's third main topic was Sharing and Displaying Memories. For this, the first important goal is organizing your photos, i.e., properly categorizing and storing them. He recommended using a photo album/archive program. For advanced users, he recommended Archive Creator, a powerful but complex program. For other users, Adobe Photoshop Album is a good choice. There are also many other good programs, depending on your taste and needs. CompuPic and ThumbsPlus are good examples.

To help in organizing, Lee recommended creating four main folders under the My Pictures folder in Windows. They will be for storing photos of People, Places, Things (critters, flowers, cars, etc.), and Events. (You might also need more folders for pictures that seem to fall outside these categories.) Under these main folders, Lee recommended creating subfolders and giving them dates for names. Then you store your photos in these, to organize them by date.

Lee also suggested burning your photos to CD or DVD, creating similar folders as described above. Many software products are available for this. Windows XP even comes with built-in features for copying/burning files to CD.

He recommended investing in a good USB 2.0 card reader for downloading photos to hard drive or CD/DVD. He showed us some sample card readers. (Many models are available and you should shop around.) If using Windows XP, when you put your camera memory card into a reader and Windows detects photos on it, the Download Wizard starts automatically.

Lee briefly explained how to use Windows XP's Download Wizard and its potential hazard -- a checkbox at the end. It reads, "Delete pictures from my device after copying them." Lee said never check this box under any circumstances. If Windows automatically deletes your photos from your memory card, but doesn't properly download them to the

hard drive, you can lose them forever!

Next goal after organizing your photos is editing and enhancing them. There are three main tasks -- cropping, balancing, and sharpening. As mentioned above, cropping involves trimming away unnecessary parts of pictures, parts that don't support the main subject. (Lee considers a cropping tool the single most

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Computer Aided Investing SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC
Market Review:

At the December Meeting, we looked back and saw that the Dow had gained 347 points since Nov. a lot more than anyone had expected. Our question going into December, was whether or not the market could continue and break through the resistance levels set by the Aug/Sept highs. All six of the major market indexes accomplished this and past levels not seen since 2001. Wow the end of year rally was here! So what's next? We had a 3 day correction, but recovered from that. Will the up trend continue or are we setting up a top? We looked at the up and down legs established by the indexes using the ZigZag indicator set at 1.5%. This is a simple tool to highlight the major changes looking backwards and show the most recent patterns. It was clear from this chart, the market was still going up. If we setup a trend line, it was not broken yet. Turning to a couple of market experts, the both indicated caution as the market was at high levels and oil prices and the Fed rate raises were the key determinants to changing the direction of the market. A review of the detailed market indicators form OTM showed continued bullish indications. The experts advise that money should be in the market now, but using tradeable securities that you can sell at a days notice, and avoid trading

restrictions of mutual funds.

Presentation:

We spend the rest of the meeting reviewing and discussing key points made by Michael Price in his recent presentation to the AAI on "A Structured Approach to Market Analysis". This was a very relevant presentation, since it put forth a lot of information that was the basis of things I was already doing, but didn't know why. The 5 key elements of the market analysis approach include looking at: the business cycle; market breadth; market indexes; trends of global market segments; and trends of sectors. These elements are the basis of Price's newsletter OnTrack Report, which is published weekly for investors in mutual funds. Price is a follower of Investors FastTrack and uses those resources in his analysis and charts. The first element of the approach is an understanding of the business cycle and how it may be influencing the market. Key points made include a high level look at the economy and how it may impact corporate profits, and whether or not the Fed policies are trying to slow or stimulate the economy. The newsletter uses 4 charts to review how the business cycle is undergoing change: the US Dollar index, CRB Futures price index, the 10 Year Treasury Yield and a composite of the US Stock Market Indexes. His makes the point that commodities price increases show economic growth, but must be conditioned by increases in the dollar, and any breakout of treasury yields from the trading range established over the last 18 mo. As long as the markets are increasing with commodity prices the investing climate is positive.

Price uses Market breath as a telltale for a continuing market trend or a change in direction. He uses 3 indicators for each of the NYSE and NASDAQ: McClellan Oscillator, McClellan Summation Index, and Net New Highs & Lows. These charts are reviewed to determine direction and consistency to confirm the market trend. Market indexes are reviewed to look for similarity or divergences in their patterns. Price uses FastTrack/Trade software to produce current

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Meeting Reports

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statistics in tables on market segments, sectors and recommended funds. His favorite measure of performance is the Ulcer Performance Index □ a modification of the Sharpe Ratio, using drawdown rather than the up and down variances to normalize performance. The UPI is a good ranking tool for indexes and funds to quickly identify a risk-adjusted relative performance figure. The market analysis he performs is the timing for his mutual fund investment recommendations. These include two views - for conservative and aggressive investors, and strategies that employ use of managed funds, tradeable funds/ETFs and hedging with short mutual funds. ■

Digital Photography

By Larry Klees, NOCCC

At the December meeting we spent a great deal of time continuing the discussion of features in digital cameras. One recurring topic was plastic lenses vs. glass lenses. Although what really counts is the quality of the image delivered by the camera, it does seem that there are few cameras with plastic lenses that deliver pictures as good as those from cameras with glass lenses. The website digital-camerainfo.com was visited and shown to be an excellent source of independent information about cameras and their image quality. This site has independent reviews and sorts cameras by feature groups, price range, brand, camera ratings, or most any other parameter you would like.

Many consumer cameras have a feature to aid composing a picture. These cameras actually place a 3 x 3 grid on the liquid crystal display so that you can place the main point of interest at one of the grid's intersections. While this is not the only rule for composition it's a good and popular rule. Look for this feature on your camera.



We eventually got on with the main part of the presentation and showed that the new version 4.0 of Adobe Photoshop Elements has improved red eye, shadow & highlight, and spot healing tools. We ran out of time before the use of these tools could actually be demonstrated. This will give those of you who missed the last meeting a second chance to see a demo of these powerful, easy to use tools at the January meeting.

Look at the picture of the Mickey Mouse antenna ball in the December "Bytes". That big paint chip on his nose was removed with a single mouse click! I have (I think) become fairly expert in the use of the clone tool, and it would take me several minutes, with the clone tool, to remove that paint chip and it would still require other tools to restore the shading and the highlight (about 20 - 30 minutes in all and probably not as good). The spot healing tool was also used to remove the road grime from Mickey's face. This was very easy and while it did take several minutes, I don't know of any other tool that can pull off this trick.

There are a variety of new and powerful tools in several programs that can do some of what the shadow & highlight tool can do, but I know of none that can do as much, as well, or as easily as this tool.

My thirty day trial version of Photoshop Elements 4.0 expired before I was able to explore its ability to automatically fix the red eye in an entire batch of imported photos. I hope one of you will try this program and show us how this feature works.

Time permitting there will also be a demo of ThumbsPlus 7. This program can file & catalog your images in a va-

riety of useful ways and print sheets of thumbnails with captions. If you haven't already discovered what a problem these tasks can be, you will. At first glance, I think this program looks useful. There are numerous similar programs. ACD-See is the only one that comes to mind because most have major flaws, major omissions, run slow, or have turned into bloat ware. ■

Computer Essentials SIG

By Elise Edgell, NOCCC

In our December meeting I demonstrated the voice dictation function built into Windows XP. Even though the voice training had been done in a small room it still worked reasonably well in a classroom. This is one of the many features of XP that most people are not aware of.

We also discussed the necessity of doing complete backups of your computer. There are several programs which do this well. Ghost by Norton is a popular choice. Another lesser known program is Acronis. It will back up your system quickly and you don't have to have Windows running to use this program.

We also discussed the reasons for having a good backup of the whole system and recent backups of data. It is really time consuming to reinstall all the programs which you have on your computer and to download and install all of the updates to these programs. It is much faster and the results are better when you have a good backup that you can use to restore you computer to the condition it was in before you had a disk crash. But, there are other reasons other than a disk crash to have a backup. Think about the people who were victims of Katrina. If they had a backup of their computer they could take with them then they would have all of the information needed for insurance, banking, assets, family photos, documents, and many other things that were lost to Katrina.

A good backup of your computer

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Hardware SIG

By Herbert Wong Jr., SIG Leader

The topic for the December 4, 2005 Hardware SIG was Dial-up, DSL, and Cable Modem Technology. A dial-up telephone connection (using a modem) is slow (<56 kilobits per second), but the alternatives are not always what they seem.

DSL Technology DSL (digital subscriber line) is a way of employing unused telephone line bandwidth to create greater data transfer rates from existing POTS (plain old telephone system) infrastructure. A splitter is used to divert the traditional voice signal (up to about four kilohertz) from the higher frequencies. The higher frequencies are sent to your DSL modem.

DSL is ubiquitous because it is a telephone company service that can currently be resold by almost anyone. Thus, a Faustian collaboration arises. Your Internet services are provided by a third party company who is dependant upon the telephone company for physical infrastructure and maintenance. When things don't work right, you are dependant upon two companies to resolve the problems; although your DSL provider should be your primary contact.

More accurately known as xDSL (where "x" represents variants such as ADSL, HDSL, SDSL, etc.), variants will exchange bandwidth for transmission distance or transmission penetration (for lack of a better descriptor). The type of xDSL used is determined by the telephone company. Data transfer rates are affected by dozens of factors. The wire length, wire gauge, use of bridged taps (un-terminated wire pairs that are connected in parallel), line interaction, etc. The proliferation of users has produced a tremendous amount of signal interaction in cable bundles that degrades performance. Ultimate speed can also be restricted by service contracts. Most DSL advertisements promise data transfer rates (downstream) of up to eight megabits per second. Asymmetric DSL provides a different (i.e. - slower) upstream rate. Symmet-

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PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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history, and other vitals, setting up automated tools that automatically search and send alerts whenever new relevant information is found, recovering content that has been removed from the Web, and more. Published by Osborne/McGraw Hill, MSRP=\$25.

How to Do Everything with Your Digital Camera, 4th Edition - Written by award-winning photographer Dave Johnson, this book is loaded with clear explanations and step-by-step details, and explains the different components of a variety of digital cameras and how to use them. Coverage includes flash and lighting tips, action and outdoor photography, various image-editing packages, and finally, organizing, storing, sharing, and printing digital images. The fourth edition of this best-seller has been updated to include details on removable storage devices and the latest utilities and photo-sharing facilities. Published by Osborne/McGraw Hill, MSRP=\$25.

Home Networking: The Missing Manual - This book, authored by Scott Lowe, from O'Reilly/Pogue Press shows you how to do everything you need to set up a home network. MSRP=\$25.

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

Windows XP for Starters: The Missing Manual - This new book by David Pogue from O'Reilly provides everything you need to know to set up Windows XP, whatever your knowledge level. The step-by-step tutorials save you time and frustration, and prevent you from making common mistakes. MSRP=\$20.

Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide C# Edition - It's written for the experienced ASP.NET developer who uses C#. Instead of teaching ASP.NET 2.0 development from scratch, this book builds on the developer's prior experience to focus exclusively

on "what's new and how to use it" and fulfill inside the cover. This book is going to be an invaluable companion for the developer upgrading from ASP.NET 1.x to Microsoft's new ASP.NET 2.0. MSRP=\$39.50.

Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide VB Edition - Mike Murach has just published this VB edition of their ASP.NET book for experienced developers. MSRP=\$39.50.

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.

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.

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

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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	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 Photography	Irvine Hall		9:30	Larry Klees	lklee@dslextreme.com	714-546-6677
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	111	9:30	Elise Edgell	EliseEdgell@aol.com	714-544-3589
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
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

Hardware SIG

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ric DSL provides equal upstream and downstream rates. The wire length (roughly estimated by the distance from your modem to the telephone company's local central office) bears heavily on your potential data rates. Common xDSL delivers the highest data rates at short distances (ex. - under 1,000 feet). Likewise, the longest practical distances (ex. - somewhere above three miles) yield the lowest data rates. This is where your DSL contract will clearly indicate the lowest guaranteed data rates; any lower and the company will refuse service. Your mileage may vary... Soggy backyards, leaky junction boxes, bad insulation, corroded connections, and squirrels produce harsher real-world conditions. At 11,885 feet, I cannot get DSL service that is reliably above dial-up data transfer rates. Cable Modem Technology Cable modem technology sends data in a fashion that is very similar to a typical cable television video channel. One channel for upstream and one channel for downstream. Of course, this large bandwidth is shared among your neighbors. On my node there are about 350 subscribers. According to the serviceman, the goal is to have about 200 on each node. If you can get cable television, you'll likely be able to get cable modem access to the Internet. It is most likely a monopoly company in your area, so you have no choice in service providers. My cable modem service delivers five megabits per second downstream. That's roughly fifty times the DSL data rate that I can get in

my neighborhood. Is it worth twice the price of DSL? You betcha! Usenet Finally, I enlightened the group with the power of Usenet, newsreaders, and newsgroups. If you don't use it, you are missing one of the most powerful tools on the Internet. January 8, 2006: The topic for the next Hardware SIG will be Home Networking - Routers, Wireless Access, Firewalls, etc.

■

Computer Essentials

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system stored in a location which is removed from the location of your computer can be a lifesaver. Many small businesses go out of business after they lose their computer information, either from theft or accident. When you think about it, a good computer backup is an inexpensive form of insurance. Also, be sure that you have the necessary information on your computer so that your backup will include all necessary information.

Have you looked inside your computer lately? In January I will bring a desktop computer and open it up for inspection. It is worth your while to learn how to open your computer and check it out every so often. A surprising amount of dust, animal hair, insects and other exotic things seem to collect inside computers very quickly. A thick layer of dust can cause your computer to overheat. Be sure to come to the next meeting and get a look inside my computer. ■

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail editor@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.



AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
Corel Draw
Excel(IBM)
Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
OS/2
PC, Beginners
PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
Quickbooks 5.0
Quicken 2000,2001
Quickbooks
Quicken Home &
Business 2000, 2001
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect

The Help Line numbers are published in the printed version of the 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.

PTR is full of tools and info to do practically everything with Linux. MSRP=\$30.

Self-Service Linux – This new book from Prentice Hall PTR is authored by Mark Wilding & Dan Behman and offers a definitive overview of practical hints and tips for Linux users. MSRP=\$40.

Linux Debugging and Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques – This is the definitive Guide to Linux software debugging & performance optimization at both the kernel and application levels. Author Steve Best systematically introduces open source tools & best-practice techniques for delivering bug-free, well-tuned code. Published by Pren Hall PTR, the MSRP=\$50.

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

The 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.

Core Web Application Development with PHP and MySQL – This book from Prentice Hall PTR by Marc Wandschneider has everything developers need to know to build robust web database applications from upfront design and planning through testing & deployment. Three start-to-finish application case studies with code are provided on CD-Rom. MSRP=\$50.

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

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

Apache Derby - Off to the Races - This book tells you how to master Apache Derby, the only open source, pure Java, fully transactional, small-footprint RDBMS. Authored by Paul Zikopoulos, Dan Scott, & George Baklarz, the hardcover book is published by IBM Press/Pearson plc and has an MSRP=\$40.

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

How to Do Everything with Dreamweaver 8 - Covering the latest version of this Web design tool, this step-by-step guide shows beginning to intermediate users how to create and main-

tain striking Web sites with Dreamweaver. Readers will learn to use all the components, including the visual layout tools, application development features, and code editing capabilities. The clearly defined chapters work equally well for readers who prefer to learn sequentially in a tutorial fashion, and those who need a quick reference to a specific task or feature. Published by Osborne/McGraw Hill, MSRP=\$25.

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.

The New, the Best

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make them available to every school child, even in this country, let alone in the developing nations. That clearly includes the need to eliminate the high cost of the MS Windows operating system and commercial productivity programs written for MS Windows. Essentially free Linux is the obvious alternative.

Here is another quote, from desktop.linux.com (<http://snipurl.com/INaccess>): "A number of Indiana high school students returning for the fall semester will find brand-new Linux desktops in their classrooms. Under the Indiana Access Program, which uses desktop Linux systems and standard hardware configurations to keep costs low, Wintergreen Systems Inc. and Linspire Inc. are providing computers for classrooms. The arrangement could result in as many as 300,000 Linux machines being deployed during coming years, the companies said in a statement." And Indiana is arguably not a third-world nation.

When a new generation of students gets weaned on Linux, they are likely to continue using that operating system in the future, creating the critical mass that it takes to become generally accepted as an alternate desktop tool. Some of the students will inevitably be interested in hacking the system, resulting in new and improved programs, as well as some new Linux viruses, I fear. Their efforts will be facilitated by the availability of all the underlying code, in contrast with MS Windows programs that jealously hide the source code.

Besides the effort to introduce Linux in school computers, several large cities as well as developing nations, notably China, have made it a priority to deploy Linux-based desktop computers. In the near future most of the growth of Linux will probably take place in developing areas of the world. Acceptance in the USA and other Western countries will be slowed by the difficulty or reluctance to transfer databases from MS Windows-based programs to comparable Linux programs. It may take another generation, but after maturing overseas Linux is likely to return in force to the Western world.

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. ■

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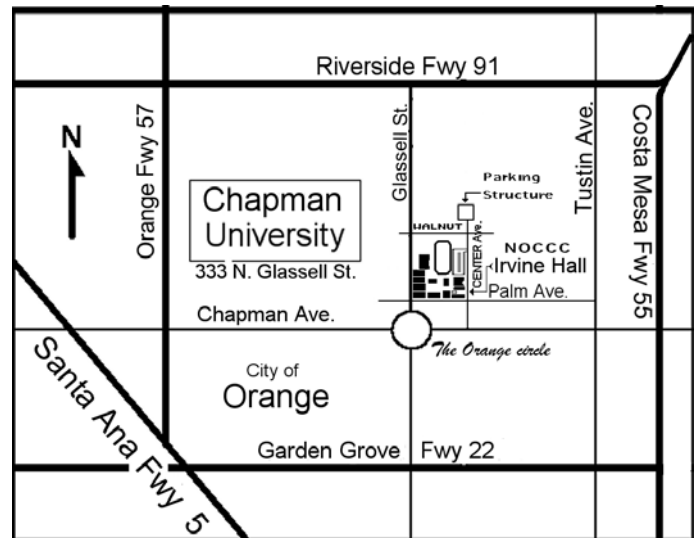
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- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help 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.
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- **Volunteer Work.** You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. *An all-volunteer organization*, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership committee, and more.

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

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

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

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



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