Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 24, Number 1 January 1999

1998 ACGNJ Election Results

ACGNJ Elections were held at the December Main Meeting. Following is the list of new Officers and Directors who will begin their duties with the January Board meeting. Their terms will expire on the dates listed. Above, those present at the meeting paused for a photo opportunity: (l to r) John Sheetz, Jo-Anne Head, Bob Berto, Frank Warren, Kevin Shelly, David Lampe, Malthi Masurekar, Elaine Lampe.

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it? If you include graphics, they should be separate files.

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are welcome. Commercial ads are 15 cents per word, $5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) $150, two-thirds page (4⅔ x 10) $115, half-page $85, one-third $57, quarter $50, eighth $30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a their newsletters to Editor at the ACGNJ address above. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be directed to David Lampe (*david.lampe@entex.com*) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

Membership, including subscription: 1 year $25, 2 years $40, 3 years $55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year $20, 3 years $45. Family of member, without subscription, $10 per year. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: The ACGNJ News is produced using Corel Ventura 5. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Ariel (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). A similar list, including many members not listed here, can be found on the ACGNJ Web Page (*www.acgnj.org*).

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The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

The biggest news about the Web is what has happened over the past few months to news about the Internet. Maria used to feed me everything she came across in the Star-Ledger on the Web, and I used to pick up stuff from other sources, like Cybertimes and Business Week, to feed this section. Well, it*s become a ghost of its former self. The latest Business Week had one note on the Net. In the world of business, the chief interest has shifted from hot new technologies to Initial Public Offerings. The prices and their growth of new companies like Yahoo!, Amazon.com, and E-bay could leave you with a permanently dropped lower jaw. It*s tulip mania all over again, and I'm certainly not going to get into that!

Genealogy

A few days before the December meeting I got some e-mail from Howard Rosen, a fellow member of the Genealogy SIG. Howard had been sending me e-mail from Poland a week or so earlier. His grandparents had come here from Poland and he had been doing some research on their origins. He had found some useful information on Jewish Gen at *www.jewishgen.org*, which happens to be a rich source of information for Polish/Jewish research, and all this made him believe he could unearth some really useful stuff.

He made contact with a Dutch woman living in Poland who was practiced in doing genealogy. They started a frequent and fruitful exchange of information by e-mail. From all this work he made contact with a cousin in Australia who had been in one of the concentration camps where the rest of her family had been murdered. He found another branch of the family in England and yet another in Scotland. The Scottish cousin was a Catholic, his family having converted many years ago, but Howard managed a very successful meeting with them all and they became fast friends. The Scottish cousin had an elderly relative who remembered her Jewish roots. While most of these contacts were discovered on the Web, they were cemented in the flesh.

The end result of all these contacts with cousins was a joint trip to Poland to see the towns where their grandparents grew up and to look for visible traces of the families. The Australian cousin wouldn't go, since she had experienced too much of the horror first hand, but his English cousin and he flew to Warsaw and were met by their Dutch researcher.

They shortly took off for Lodz, the center for his searches. There he found himself in a hotel room which he proceeded to investigate. He took out his laptop, which he had brought to take notes, and while looking around he noticed that the telephone was modern. Closer inspection led him to discover that the plug was compatible with the jack on the laptop! (This was a surprise, since they had just left England where the plugs were incompatible.) Being braver than I would have been, he unplugged the line from the phone and plugged it into the laptop. He found the local number for AOL, his usual ISP. No sooner did he log on than he heard: "You've got mail!"

A momentary digression. A lot of us techies turn up our noses at AOL as too plebeian. I have an account with AT&T WorldNet. Last time I went to Portugal, I called to ask for local numbers in Lisbon. They said that they were sorry, but that they only had service over here. WorldNet! And, it is AOL — America On Line — not WOL. I knew CompuServe had POPs in Europe, but I am impressed that AOL does! I just called AT&T to see if they had expanded their service yet, but if you can get a dumb stare over the phone, that's what I got. EUNet, on the other hand, has "over 3000 dial-in points in more than 150 countries." Last time we visited, our hotel was very old and had a switchboard which wouldn't permit data calls. They probably had only one or two trunks, anyway. I'm hoping for better facilities this time.

Back to Howard's story. One of his mail uses was one of the JewishGen mailing lists. Since he got connected in Lodz, he started to post some of his experiences to the list. The following days he got responses from Georgia, Argentina, Paris, etc.

A point that hit me very hard during this presentation was that I had lost some of the wonder of the Net. Howard took me back to my first night on the Web, an experience that made me feel that those boxes on and under my desk were not just electronic marvels, but keys to a world both familiar and undiscovered that lay on the other side of my screen. I realized that we may have gotten bogged down in a lot of technical trivia, and forgotten the miracle! Howard, in his enthusiasm for what had opened up for him took me back to my own early days of awe. Thank you, Howard, for reminding us!

Howard also told us a story of an artist, now living in California, that someone had sent him e-mail about. She, along with a number of other artists, had been spared from the gas chamber to do work for the Nazis. In particular, she had been assigned by the infamous Dr. Mengele to make drawings of gypsies and other "degenerate" types so that their obvious inferiority could be documented for his eugenic studies. Howard was asked to quietly look into whether any use was being made of her art today. He did discover, through an ad posted on a bulletin board at Auschwitz, that some of her work was on display at one of the camp museums, and appeared in one of their books. Of course, she has not received any royalties from the present Polish government, but managed to gain her life from the Nazis.

He then told us some of the perils of doing genealogical research in Eastern Europe. It was only the march of Napoleon across Europe that caused Poland to start keeping birth, marriage and death records in the local bureaucracies. That was pretty late in history to do current researchers much good. Another problem is that a given town could have been in different countries at different times, with curious consequences for recorded histories of individuals. And, not only did official languages change from time to time, but in the case of Poland, alphabets did as well! The boring regularity of doing genealogical research in England pales in comparison!

continued

One other genealogical item: I mentioned in my Internet World tour, the site *www.ancestry.com*. This is a good place to remind you to check it out. They have tons of data, which they keep up-to-date, and very little advertising.

Cyber Wars

See *www.computerworld.com/home/online9697.nsf/all/971103dojlinks* for Computerworld's list of Web sites related to the Microsoft antitrust case, as well as their own coverage. Of course, Ziff-Davis (*www.zdnn.com*) has lots of news items (just search for "microsoft antitrust."). You can also find a lot of material in Cybertimes, under *www.nytimes.com* at *library/tech/reference/index-microsoft.html*.

The biggest battle lately is between MS and Edward Felten, a Princeton professor who claimed he had developed a program that easily removed Internet Explorer from machines running Windows98 without bothering the rest of the system and that Microsoft made him turn over the source for his program as part of the discovery process, then modified Windows98 so that Felten's program would no longer work as it had before. My guess is that MS's strategy is to tie their browser to their GUI shell by adding one or more new libraries (dlls) to Windows which are used by both Internet Explorer and Windows Explorer to give the latter an IE look. This may give them the tie-in they claim.

Investing

Want to know how your online broker or banker stacks up? Gomez Advisors at *www.gomez.com* helps you compare them. This quarter's top two brokers are e*trade and dljdirect, while last quarter's are Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

At the last Investing SIG meeting, Dick Boyd spoke a bit about investing overseas. I told you last time about beta testing Quicken99, which supports multiple currencies (yea!). I mentioned the need to get exchange rates. I just found another source: *www.x-rates.com*.

Science

Just received some e-mail from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "AAAS members can receive targeted research and education funding announcements via the U.S. Opportunity Alert (USOA) e-mail service." It's not free, but so much of what scientists do must be paid for by groveling for money. If you're in that business, it might be a good deal.

When I was in junior high (called "middle school" now) I was already a science nut. One of my favorite non-fiction reads was Popular Science. They have a "Best of Web" feature at *www.popsci.com/context/features/bow*, with subsections on "Heavenly Bodies," "Science Flix," "Healthy Bodies," etc. If you find some of my usual science fare too fancy, try this.

From Science at *www.sciencemag.org*, this week's issue (December 11) features a special section on the complete mapping of the genome of a nematode, a common soil worm about 1 mm. long. This is the first multi-celled animal to be so mapped and a large number of pages and a number of articles are devoted to it. I think you need to be a subscriber to read them, though.

Remember Dolly? Well, a bunch of researchers in Japan have succeeded in making eight clones of a single cow. It seems Science believes there will be so much interest in this event that they have made the article a free read. Find it at *www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/282/5396/2095*.

From this week's Netwatch:

- Virtual Viruses: Surprisingly beautiful artistic representations of Viruses from the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Molecular Virology at *www.bocklabs.wisc.edu/virusviztop.html*.
- Ocean view: A library of fascinating photos from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at *www.photolib.noaa.gov*.
- Learn how human ears work and more about sound in the winning entry in the ThinkQuest '98 student Web site contest at *hyperion.advanced.org/19537*.
- The latest in a series of undergraduate student Web-based journals is the National Journal of Young Investigators at *www.jyi.org*. It's not for original research, but it's great practice for budding scientists.
- The Committee for the National Institute for the Environment has "laid a cornerstone" for a new environmental institute "in cyberspace." They started with a Web-based library at *www.cnie.org* to offer some order in the present chaos of environmental info on the Net.

This month's Scientific American (*www.sciam.com*) has a number of Web pieces. Featured is a piece on La Niña, sister weather maker to El Niño. There's a section on winners of the National Medals of Science and Technology, an "Ask the Experts" piece on the effects of electricity and magnetism on the shape of space, and "Under Construction", about the building of the space station.

C-Net TV Schedule

Sci-Fi Channel	Saturday	Sunday
CNet Central	9:00 a.m.	12:00 n.
New Edge	9:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
The Web	10:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Cool Tech	10:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Same lineup on USA Sundays beginning at 6 a.m.		

For more information visit the C-Net Web Site (*www.cnet.com*)

On The Horizon: The Ultimate Upgrade

by Ron Murawski (the_murs@pipeline.com)

Watch out Dell, Gateway, Micron and Compaq!… Little Evergreen Technologies (*http://www.evertech.com*) is about to siphon away much of your profits. Evergreen has developed a new product, called the Eclipse PCI processor upgrade, that will slow down the sale of brand-new computers.

Just imagine if you could upgrade an older 486 or Pentium machine to Pentium II performance levels — it would be the ultimate upgrade. Well, hold onto your hat because it appears as though the ultimate upgrade is here.

This too-good-to-be-true claim seems genuine. Evergreen is a company with a proven track record, being the originator of the CPU upgrade. In 1990 it created its first processor upgrade, which converted a 286 processor into a 386SX.

History

Through the years Intel (*http://www.intel.com*) has made a practice of manufacturing new CPU chips that do not plug into older sockets. The number of pins and the arrangement of the pinouts vary. Required pin voltages sometimes differ. These physical and electronic differences prevented users from upgrading by merely inserting the latest CPU into an older computer.

Intel chips fall into families according to pinouts. Some famous CPU families are: 386, 486, Pentium Classic, Pentium MMX, and Pentium II. Each new generation of CPU is more capable than the generation it is replacing, and each new generation requires a different socket from its predecessor.

Evergreen has specialized in upgrading older chips by putting newer chips onto custom mountings that plug into old-style sockets. This approach seems ideal but suffers because of an often-overlooked fact: Intel added those extra pins to increase CPU throughput. Most Evergreen upgrades have not brought great improvements in performance. Processor improvements were usually limited to a range of 10% to 50% faster. The rule of thumb has been to figure the improvement as half of what you would expect judging from clock speed alone.

The Old Upgrade Approach

Typically the user would have to remove the cover, remove the old CPU, insert the new CPU and change the jumper positions on the motherboard which control bus speed and clock multiplier settings. Complications ranged from the old CPU cooling fan not fitting on the new CPU to interference with a long ISA or PCI card. Inept upgraders could possibly damage CPU pins or motherboard components. Most users shied away from this frightful process.

Users have not seen any popular upgrade chips since the Intel OverDrive. This has been caused by the high cost of an upgrade chip relative to the small performance boost it conferred. Computer-savvy users agreed with the experts that a combination motherboard/CPU upgrade had a much better cost/performance ratio.

Intel has come out with the Pentium II series of CPUs which use a single edge-connector slot designated as Slot 1. Intel has patented Slot 1 and threatens to sue any CPU competitor that dares to connect to it or any motherboard chipset maker that duplicates Slot 1 functionality. Common wisdom suggested that the day of the upgrade CPU was over.

The New Upgrade Approach

Evergreen's notion of where to mount a new processor upgrade is novel — they put it on a PCI card. At face value, this seems ridiculous. After all, when you turn on the upgraded computer it will still boot up with the old CPU. It will still go through all the old bootup shenanigans before finally initializing the Evergreen Eclipse PCI upgrade card.

This is the point at which Evergreen's idea seems magical: After initialization, the Eclipse PCI takes over most computer operations. Here's what happens:

- The Eclipse CPU becomes the working CPU.
- The Eclipse BIOS becomes the new working BIOS.
- The Eclipse memory becomes the working memory.
- The Eclipse Northbridge becomes the working Northbridge.

Suddenly an orders-of-magnitude performance improvement becomes attainable.

The new, upgraded BIOS is reputed to be more compatible than the old, aging one it replaces. Some of you may be wondering what a "Northbridge" is. A Northbridge is usually embedded into a computer motherboard. It contains the logic circuitry to control memory, L2 cache and the PCI bus. Modern motherboards also contain a "Southbridge", which controls I/O (input / output) such as the serial and parallel ports and hard drives. The Eclipse cannot take control of the Southbridge from a PCI slot. The original CPU must handle these chores. What is slightly amazing about the Eclipse is

continued

Horizon, *continued*

that it is a hardware-only upgrade. No additional software of any kind is required to make an upgraded system functional.

The Celeron version of the Eclipse PCI has an Intel 440BX chipset containing logic usually found only on motherboards. In theory the 440BX chipset can communicate with memory at 100 MHz. Unfortunately, due to Intel's fierce protection of Slot 1, the Eclipse PCI has to use the new socket 370 version of the Celeron chip. This forbids use of the 50% faster 100 MHz bus. Evergreen is offering Celerons on the Eclipse card at speeds of 266 to 366 MHz. Memory will be expandable to 256 MB.

Also available will be an AMD (*http://www.amd.com*) K6-2 3D CPU version. AMD's chips will run at 300 to 400 MHz. The motherboard logic on this Eclipse version will be a Super-7 design and will support the faster 100 MHz bus. Memory expansion capabilities are the same as the Celeron version.

Evergreen says an Eclipse PCI with a 333 MHz Intel Celeron processor and 64 MB of RAM will sell for less than $400. It is expected to be available in January 1999. They also claim that an upgraded computer will lose only 5% performance by controlling the computer through the PCI bus.

Conclusion

The Eclipse will become a no-brainer choice for IT (Information Technology) departments responsible for upgrading corporate desktops. Merely adding a PCI card will not void any PC warranties. The expected performance boost is similar to a motherboard/CPU upgrade without risking any voided warranties.

There are some negative aspects to performing upgrades versus buying new machines. Most of the problems center on the fact that the old parts ***not*** being replaced are slow, dated and may expire of old age. For instance, older power supplies have much higher failure rates than new ones. Old hard drives will eventually fail and cannot compete with new ultra-DMA drives. Older video cards likewise cannot compete on a performance level with newer offerings. This is also true for sound cards. As far as the CPU is concerned, an Eclipse PCI upgraded machine becomes frozen in time. There is usually no gain to further upgrading an already-upgraded machine. On the other hand, it's pretty tough to argue with the price/performance ratio.

Consumers (and IT departments) won't buy a new machine if they can upgrade their old computers to a solid performance level at an affordable price. The Eclipse PCI upgrade seems poised to upgrade a sizable chunk of the estimated 200 million computers out there in need of a boost.

Next Month: MP3 Files and the Music Industry

 *Ron Murawski is a computer consultant from Staten Island, New York. Feedback or advice for future articles is invited. You can read "On The Horizon" online at (*http://www.castlemall.com/ron*).*

Windows Without a Mouse

by Paul Shapiro

Your computer life these days can be really upset when Windows 95 indicates that "no mouse was found" and/or the mouse pointer just sticks in place right in the middle of what you are doing. It's bad enough that the latest "office" packages (Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, and so forth) only have those little icons across the top of the screen, accessible only by name, or so it would seem. When your mouse sticks, the pointer just cannot be moved.

Or so I used to think until I learned otherwise. Here's what I used to do:

- Use the <Ctrl>+<Alt>+<Del> key combination to terminate a program.
- Use <Alt>+<Shift>+<Space Bar> combination to close or minimize a window.
- Use the <Ctrl>+<Escape> key combination to get to the Start menu, then use the arrow keys.
- Shake the mouse!

The latter works for me if the mouse pointer worked okay earlier in the computer session. this is probably true because some dust inside has been shuffled around. With a previous mouse (yup, these problems have caused me to replace mouses [mice?]), I opened the case and actually found a small ball of dust. Once I removed the dust ball, the problem was solved.

Reprinted from Monitor (September 1998), the newsletter of Capital PC User Group.

Keeping Up-To-Date

by Alex Goldfinger

Both Oil Change and Tune Up claimed to keep your software up-to-date, and both were roasted in the computer press for addressing only 20 – 30 percent of the software contained on the test systems.

Now you can roll your own at *www.versions.com*. Set up a free account, and choose from over 60,000 software programs. They'll send you e-mail when updates are announced or available. I found most of my freeware and shareware listed. Surprisingly, although it had many Microsoft products, it didn't have Office97 or Word97.

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified section to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or via e-mail to the editor, *bdegroot@ptdprolog.net*. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay $10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with your copy. Reasonable length, please. Deadline: 1st of preceding month. (For example, April 1 for May isssue.)

Installing the Perfect Motherboard

by Dick Freymoyer (dickfrey@aol.com)

Last month I described my search for the perfect motherboard. Now I will describe my ***Epox EP-58MVP3C-M*** motherboard and the other hardware I will reinstall, so you can follow me.

The Components

The board is a Baby AT board which measures about 8 by 10 inches, fairly small compared to the Super-Micro board I just removed. It has 4 PCI slots, 3 ISA slots and 1 AGP slot, 3 168-pin DIMM sockets (which accommodate a total of 384 MB of memory), and a 512K Pipeline Burst SRAM L2 cache. In addition it has a Via Apollo MVP3 chipset, a USB connection, and a PS2 mouse connector.

This board can be used with an AT or an ATX power supply. If you choose the ATX power source you can use the built in System Power ON/OFF button. I know some people don't like the System Power ON/OFF feature, I sort of liked it once I got used to it. On board there is a keyboard power-on jumper. I will try to explain this a little later, if this article doesn't get too long.

The voltage settings give you a pretty good range: 2.1V, 2.2V, 2.8V, 2.9V and 3.2 volts. There are some boards that have a better range of settings, such as the FIC.

The multiplier settings are really great: 2x, 2.5x, 3x, 3.5x, 4x, 4.5x, and 5x. With these you can do just about anything you want. The CPU bus speeds are 60, 66, 75, 83, and 100MHz. These bus clock speeds open just about any door you want.

The board supports processors from 120 MHz to 500 MHz. The Epox board has a CPU temperature sensor built into it, and you can connect an LED or a buzzer to let you know if the processor is overheating. I think most new boards have this feature (my older Super Micro Boards had it, but I never took advantage of it). I think there should be a way to check the temperature without a buzzer or LED and you should not have to go into the BIOS setup to read the chip temperature. While we are talking about this item, in the BIOS chipset page you can see CPU temperature, motherboard temperature, CPU fan speed, chassis fan speed, CPU voltage level and all other voltage readings coming into the board. Are you impressed yet?

All that is great, but the only way you can check these things is if you boot up into the CMOS settings. I seem to remember I had a CMOS chip years ago (a Phoenix, I believe) that I could get into any time by hitting two keys on the keyboard. But, if we had a way to get into the BIOS setup any time, can you guess how many problems the wrong pair of hands could cause. If nothing else, it would give a lot of trouble calls to computer repairmen!

The existing hardware we are working with is a SoundBlaster 16 with a built-in SCSI II Adaptec chip on the ISA card, a 56K modem made by New Com, and a STB-128 Lightspeed 4 MB PCI card. I have a SCSI Plextor 4x CD ROM with a built-in 1 MB buffer, a Bernoulli internal 150MB SCSI drive, a 4.6 GB Western Digital drive, a 1.6 GB Western Digital drive and two 3½-inch floppy drives, one of which is 2.88MB. I have an external 3.2 GB tape backup drive that I might add later. Remember, we are working with the new Epox motherboard, an AMD K6-2-3D-300 CPU chip and 64MB of PC-100 RAM.

I also have one hard drive Removable Mobile Rack installed in each computer. I always use this as the slave because it saves all kinds of problems if I want to move the hard drive to another computer. The mobile Racks cost about $10-$12 without the fans and about $18-$20 with built-in fans. This is a cheap and dirty way for backups or for moving data from one computer to another. (I guess that is why I don't use my tape backup any more.)

Putting Them Together

The first step is to set all my jumper settings on the motherboard before I install it. I find it easier to do this out of the case. The jumper settings are marked and are placed at convenient locations on this board. Since the CPU Processor is a 300MHZ, I set the speed for 100MHZ and the multiplier setting on 3X. I also install the CPU chip and fan, the memory, power supply cable and sometimes the com port, serial port and IDE cables. I put all the control wires on the motherboard (keylock switch, HD LED, speaker, etc.). Some time ago, I found some brass motherboard standoffs that are threaded, allowing you to run screws into them through the motherboard. I use these for mounting the board instead of the plastic ones. I have never seen the brass standoffs again, but I just love them. I have always found with the plastic standoffs that if you are not careful one or more aren't seated in the case slot cutouts for mounting the board.

Before I install the motherboard I remove the hard drive cage and set it aside, allowing me to set up my digital CPU speed display on the case and making work on the small control wires easier. With all that behind me, I set the board into the computer case, run the screws into the motherboard and plop the cards in. I usually keep the hard drive cage out until everything works right. I never expect problems, but just remember that guy Murphy and his Law. I always recheck all connections and make a visual sweep of everything. If it looks okay, I fire the computer up.

The next step is to put my emergency boot-up disk into the A drive and boot the computer. If anything goes wrong it doesn't destroy my Windows 95 or mess up anything else on my computer. With the boot-up disk in, I go into the Award BIOS setup. Most motherboard companies tell you to set the board to the default settings first, and this is a smart thing for most people. I do it sometimes, just to see what think the settings should be. They designed the board and should know what they are doing. After setting the board to the setup defaults, I go into the standard CMOS setup and check the date and time. Then I set the IDE primary, secondary master, and slave controller to Auto. I go a step further by clicking on

continued

the hard drive self detect option and make sure the hard drive data is correct, I then set up my floppy drive.

We go to the next menu, BIOS Features Setup, to see what I want to change, for instance, the boot sequence. I set this for A, C etc. It works for me and should be the default on most BIOS setups. I disable Virus warning because if it's enabled it gives you a warning any time the boot section or partition sections change and it is a pain in the butt. Boot Up System Speed default is sometimes "SET speed to LOW", I set mine to "HIGH". I never set security for a password. If someone wants to see what you have, they could just remove the drives and be home free, so why worry about it. I leave Power Management Setup disabled. The PCI/ISA Configuration must be set up for your ISA cards if they are not PnP. I don't go through all the menus in the Award BIOS setup; I will check them later, after I am running. I like to tweak setting, pushing for the fastest without making the board unstable.

My next step is to save the changes I made in the CMOS setup and get this beast up and running. Just remember, as I said before, use your emergency boot up disk in "A" drive and boot it into DOS. If it seems to be seeing everything (memory, CPU size and manufacturer, all drives, and the various PnP cards), you are home free. I still have to load the AGP driver and some other motherboard software, but that must be loaded within Windows 95. One thing I failed to mention: my "C" drive is reformatted and has no files on it, except the system files. Once everything looks good, I check to make sure my SCSI CD-ROM and the Bernoulli drives are working.

The Boot Disk

A pause to explain my special boot disk for this machine. My A drive is a 2.88MB 3½-inch floppy drive. The 4 MB 3½-inch disks format to 2.88MB. I can store all the drivers I need on one disk. All the special SCSI device drivers are also on this disk, along with necessary DOS files. If you have any SCSI CD and Bernoulli drives you know what I am talking about. I don't recommend you load Windows 95 from your boot disk. You should use your C drive.

Now that I know all my drives, including the CD and Bernoulli, are working, I am ready for the easy work. Since the system files are on C, I make a directory for my special "Tree86" program and load it. With "Tree86" in place, I make a directory called DICK. I use this to store all drivers, including special drivers for the SCSI devices. I tag and copy all those and the DOS drivers from A drive to the DICK directory. I also copy any regular driver and DOS files I need to the root directory of C. I then transfer the Autoexec.bat and Config.sys files to C, where I edit them to look for the drivers on C drive instead of A. Now I have a bootable C drive that will load everything for me. Before continuing, I copy the original boot up files from A drive and rename them AUTOEXEC.RKF and CONFIG.RKF. With this done I make sure my new Config.sys and Autoexec.bat files work and save them as Autoexec.DOS and Config.DOS. I now have three Autoexec and three Config files on the hard drive. The Autoexec.DOS and Config.DOS are copies of Autoexec.Bat and Config.Sys and the Autoexec.RKF and Config.RKF are copies of A drive's Autoexec.bat and Config.Sys. I also copy these into the "DICK" directory, just in case I want to use them later. Now I reboot and make sure everything looks good again. Now I can start to load Windows 95.

Loading Win95 is easy, but I customize the installation so I don't load things I never use. I use Norton Utilities and Quarterdeck's Cleansweep, which do a better job than Microsoft's programs. I never load monitor watch, handicap files, and others.After Windows 95 is loaded, I check the Control Panel and see what isn't loaded, like the Sound Blaster sound card, the modem, the existing video card, just to mention a few things. After loading these device drivers, I get out the Motherboard's special drivers. Epox suggests I download Windows 95 Service Release V-2.1 and 2.5 in order to get support for the Universal Serial Bus (USB). At this time I don't intend to use the USB, but since they suggest I load it, I will search it out. I didn't have any luck finding that release on MS bulletin board, so I will try again some other time. Epox has included two floppy disks with the package, for the VIA AGP Driver and Ultra DMA-33 Driver, also the APMC Driver. My first quest is to load the VIA AGP, which is needed before you can install an AGP board. This is not the driver for installing the AGP Video board — it's a driver you need to activate the AGP slot. The VIA AGP and Ultra DMA-33 drivers load without problems, so I turn my attention to the VIA APMC controller. APMC is for the special feature to wake the motherboard up, if you enable it. Now is when I would install the AGP Video board, if I were using one. I am not at this time.

The "External Modem Ring In Power On" and "Keyboard Power On" functions can be enabled with a jumper setting. The "Modem Ring In Power On" function enables you to get into your computer from a remote site by dialing into your external modem on COM1 or COM2, and you turn on your system. This feature must be used with the ATX power supply and case. Once connected, power up your computer by pressing any 1 or 2 keys at the same time for at least 2 seconds. I like the idea, but no way would I want anyone else to be able to dial into my computer. Maybe you can put some sort of lock on that feature so only you know how to dial into your computer, but the book doesn't tell me any more about that. When I have time, I will go to Epox's Bulletin board and see if I can get a better understanding of the feature. I have been told that there are programs out there that will keep other people out of your computer if they don't have the correct password, or you could also enable the CMOS user

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Professional Certification: My 4-Year Odyssey

by Susan Ellsworth (Capital PC User Group)

Pursuit of the Certified Netware Engineer (CNE) credential has been more than a 4-year odyssey of organizational antipathy followed by corporate support. I have survived and persevered following a company political shakeup. I have overcome doubt and experienced the support of my friends and family. For someone who started out hating computers, it has been a miracle.

Yes! In the early years of my marriage to a mainframe programmer, I nurtured a passionate hatred for computers. It seemed to me that all my husband's time and energy went into computers. Grant worked way too many swing shifts that turned into graveyard shifts. I lived for the day all those darned computers would die — die, die, die!

Several years later, Grant brought the first small computer and printer into our home. The Apple II and its companion, a Centronics dot matrix printer, instantly went to the top of my personal "enemies" list. This was especially true when error messages simply said "syntax error" or the printer jammed, which was often and ugly. Little did I know that a 200-bps modem would change my attitude. The day I dialed into a VAX in Grant's office because I couldn't get him on the phone, "The Enemy" became "The Computer."

Fast forward to November, 1993. NetWare 4.0 was new. I was a contract Helpdesk Technician in a startup NetWare 4.0 environment that would grow to over 1500 nodes at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland. Years before, I had taken Novell's System Manager course in Utah and subsequently set up a small NetWare 2.0a network. I had supported users in NetWare 386 and Netware 3.11 DOS environments.

As the NARA contract grew, the network responsibilities Helpdesk staff had had for creating user accounts were given to the contract's CNEs. The morning after my project manager's e-mail was compromised, all technical staff with network administrative rights had those rights taken away. There would be no more learning about NetWare for the Helpdesk staff. Clearly, the "great unwashed" and uncredentialed on that contract would be forever stuck responding to cries of "I can't print!" and changing toner.

There was zero company support for technical training. I had to use annual leave, and I had to pay for my first NetWare 4.0 course out of my pocket. I passed my first exam, Netware Administration, June 25, 1994, and became a Certified NetWare Administrator. My company's project manager, who had originally tried to hire me as a secretary, was unimpressed. I got no pay increase and no additional resume-enhancing responsibilities. In March, 1995, I bailed out, having accepted a position as an MIS Specialist for a whole lot more money with a satellite network communications company.

My new supervisor wanted me to learn to manage part of the company's NetWare 4.1/Windows 3.1 network, and allocated part of her budget for me to take the Advanced Administration course the following November. Things were looking up. That was our plan.

On November 10, 1995, my father died. It was the beginning of the end of several years of gut-wrenching, exhausting responsibility for my parents. I took the Advanced Administration course 2 weeks later in a state of distraction and depression. It was May, 1996, before I was able to take and pass the Advanced Administration test.

I asked for funding to take NetWare Install and Configure, the next logical course. I should have asked a brick for water. Organizational politics had reared its hideous hydraheads and run screaming through the company. By the fall of 1996, my manager was history. I left early in 1997, with no confidence that I would ever be a CNE.

My husband, an Enterprise CNE and Master CNE, gently encouraged me to go ahead anyway. His attitude and my next manager's support played a huge role in my willingness to try again. I buried my nose in Novell study guides and self-study software. I installed and configured my own NetWare 4.11 server, which I named Gene. On July 11, 1997, I passed Installation and Configuration with some room to spare. I was back on track.

As a contractor with a small government agency, I thought a wonderful opportunity was about to present itself. The agency, a NetWare 3.12/Windows NT 4.0 shop, had made a commitment to convert to Netware 4.11. Would I be given the opportunity to install and configure the first server? Not! The first server was brought up by someone else with long-standing CNE credentials. It had no provision for print queues. This was not good, especially in an environment where most users routinely printed their e-mail and many created large graphics-oriented files. I had visions of print queues filling up the data volume, the server being unable to create spool files, and users unable to print. I still wasn't a CNE, so it was a major task to persuade my long-time CNE customer that he would have to reinstall and reconfigure NetWare on his new server. Credibility was not mine yet.

I bought a book about NetWare Directory Services and once again buried my nose in NetWare 4.11. I was determined to gain credibility in a shop full of CNEs. I began practicing the online drills that would help me pass Design and Implementation, the component that seemed most like Novell's true religion. My customer had no written standards for naming NetWare Directory Services (NDS) objects, so I began to write. My document outlining proposed NDS standards for the customer was 43 pages long, including graphics and tables of objects. I studied and passed Design and Implementation on September 9, 1997.

My next challenge, Building Intranets with Intranetware, was a course that assumed full understanding of TCP/IP. Mine was rudimentary and based entirely on the practical experience of configuring fixed IP addresses in Windows workstations. It assumed an understanding of networking technologies and protocols I had never studied. To meet this challenge, I would have to take the course. I would have to study and practice. I took the course and practiced on Gene at night. I passed Building Intranets on January 5, 1998.

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Efficient Use of Large Hard Drives

by Durand C. "Randy" Waters (Alamo PC Organization)

Back in the June 1996 issue of PC Alamode, in Vade Forrester's NewsScan column, there was a box on DOS and Windows 95 File Storage Inefficiency. Like many of you, I followed his estimate and found I was wasting 40% of the space on my 2.0GB hard drive by having it in a single partition. I was not too happy about this, but since I was only using about half of the drive, I was not too concerned.

As time passed and I added more and more files to support Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the various program upgrades that come out during an average year, less and less space was available.

Not wanting to give up on the potential 804.8 MB that was being wasted by large cluster size (32 KB) and have to get another hard drive for $200 or more, I let it be known that Partition Magic would be an appreciated birthday gift. My younger son took the hint, and I was all set to start planning.

I started the program a couple of times, to get an idea of how it worked. I read what I felt were the appropriate parts of the documentation. I sought the expert advice of Vade Forrester to make sure I understood how things were really going to work. It was worse than I thought. I had decided that four 503MB partitions, reducing cluster size to 8 KB would be the best solution, reducing "waste space" by approximately 30%.

The "catch" is that in a Windows 95 system, the best approach is to uninstall/remove all the files that will not be on the primary partition (the C:\ drive). Also, since the installation of programs adds files to the C:\Windows directory and lines of instructions to the win.ini, system.ini and regedit.exe files, you need to leave some space for "growth".

Once I uninstalled all the programs that had a listing in the Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs Install/Uninstall tab, or had an Uninstall icon or feature, there were still some programs left that just had to be deleted from the hard drive. These presented some problems that can just be ignored or dealt with carefully. I will discuss this later.

The important thing to do is make sure you have the original diskettes or CD-ROMs to reinstall the programs that were removed. If the files are ones you have downloaded from an Internet source, make sure you have the original and all the upgrades available, too. Some "upgrades" will not install unless you have the previous version of the program.

A good example is MS-DOS. Versions 6.22, 6.2, 6.0 and 5.0 could all be upgrades and version 4.02 might be the original that you need. Microsoft Bookshelf is another one. Many programs require the software to be on the computer or for you to insert the initial diskette of the previous version. It pays to keep the originals of your software, no matter what format it is.

There were over 279 MB of data that could be moved anywhere, but it and my "basic" Windows 95 files took up about 719 MB of space.

First, I tried to Resize the C:\ drive from 2,012 to 1,006 MB, and then create D:\ and E:\ drives of 503 MB each. After moving my data files to the E:\ drive, I went back to the resizing of C:\ back to 503 MB. I then tried to create another 503 drive. All I kept getting was a Hidden drive of 0.1 MB and the remainder as free space. The trick is to create all the drives at the same time.

As you may remember from my October, 1996, column, I feel having up-to-date backups is very important. As the Partition Magic manual recommended, I did a complete backup of my system before starting, just in case something went wrong. I did another backup of my data files before Resizing the C:\ drive back to 2,012 MB, which deleted all the new drives and any files that were on them. Now I had only 341 MB on the hard drive and could Resize C:\ and Create D:\, E:\ and F:\, all to approximately 503 MB.

This time it worked just fine! First I restored the 279 MB of data from the tape, and now I am on my way to reinstalling all the software I had to remove. You might ask why I do not just restore it from my last "complete" backup. This would be easy, but neither the Windows 95 Registry nor any of the "ini" files listed above would have been updated. Plus, there would probably be error messages because it could not find the files on drive (D:\, E:\, or F:\) to which it was eventually restored.

Remember that I told you above that "This presented some problems that can just be ignored or dealt with carefully." Well, there are programs that do not have an uninstall program, or were not registered in the Control Panel Add/Remove Program Install/Uninstall tab. They have probably left all sorts of "information" in the win.ini, system.ini and Windows 95 Registry files.

The advice I give here is only for the stout of heart and very courageous Windows 95 user! The "ini" files can be checked and edited using the System Editor or Notepad. Instead of removing lines, put a "REM" or ";;" in front of them and see if there are problems with starting your system or various programs after the changes take effect (the next time the computer is started). If there is a problem, you can just remove whichever remarking symbols you used and the problem should be solved.

The Windows 95 Registry file is another situation. Before using Regedit.exe (the program used to make changes and hold the information), I would copy the "regedit.exe" file to "regedit.scr" to have a backup, *just in case*!

As long as you stick to using its menu selections or associated keyboard shortcuts, you should be all right. These are the Edit Menu (Alt+E) and its Find (Ctrl+F), Find Next (F3) and Modify (an Edit Menu selection which is added when you have found what you are searching for) and Delete (Del) selections.

As always, try to make changes regarding only one program at a time. It is easier to reverse mistakes that way. In this case, that usually means reinstalling the software.

Keeping your computer "fit and trim" means a good deal of thought and research on your part. There are two ways to avoid this problem. The first is to order your computer

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Professional Certification, *continued*

My government customer had told me that Networking Technologies was the test that would "separate the men from the boys." So when I passed Networking Technologies on March 28, I sent him an e-mail message asking if I would now have to join "The Men". His succinct, "Gawd, I hope not!" reply went on to say, "Well, congrats for passing a difficult exam. The more you are around networking, the more you will be coming back to this course and its concepts. I'm glad for you. And please don't trade any estrogen for testosterone … the world has enough of that as it is!"

All this progress has a foundation based on the encouragement and support of earlier mentors and helpers. My first computing mentor, Capital PC User Group (CPCUG) Build Team Member Ed Fox, taught me patience with peripherals and how to plan for difficult computing environments. Our shared experience in managing a district database for several thousand Toastmasters helped me understand the concept of managing user expectations. The CPCUG Build Team helped me build my first computer — and, not coincidentally, my self-confidence.

My friend and mentor, David Rorabaugh, has a positive attitude about test taking and announcing one's goals. He once told me, "I figured it was cheaper and easier to fail tests as a diagnostic than to kill myself studying. When I go for my MCSF, I'm going to try and get the classes, get the study guides, get the practice tests, *then* go for the exam … It's easier to reach your goals if you tell people what they are. You get support and encouragement, and you push yourself just a little harder since everyone knows what you're going for."

With that in mind, I recently sent another e-mail to friends and family on the subject of my CNE goal. "To my many friends who have cheered me on while I'm working on my CNE … I have committed to take my final exam on Tuesday, April 28, at 4:30. I have passed all my other tests the first time around, some with significant room to spare. Thanks, Grant, for your encouragement and real professional support as I have studied. Dave, thanks for challenging me to share my goal with my friends. Ed and Grant, thanks for co-planting the seed."

A friend I used to work with sent me this note: "Way to Go!!!!! Keep me posted!" I believe I will.

Susan Ellsworth has been a member of CPCUG since before 386 computers became the latest/greatest. She has been a trainer with the Build Team, taught the old "Under the Hood" class, and has been a Director of Volunteers. She may be reached at susan.ellsworth@mix.cpcug.org.

(Editor's note: Susan passed her final exam the day after submitting this article. Congratulations to CPCUG's newest CNE!)

Reprinted from Monitor (July, 1998), the newsletter of the Capital PC User Group. 💻

Why Go to the Library?

by Paul Shapiro (Capital PC User Group)

That is, why go to the library if you just want a list of neighbors on your block, along with phone numbers, addresses, and whatever else the phone company has put in its directory. Do you know who your neighbors are? How they spell their names? Whether they own more than one phone or, for that matter, more than one house on the block?

Point your browser to *http://www.anywho.com/telq.html* to find the address of someone whose phone number you know. When that name and number flash across your screen, the street will usually be shown as a link. Click on it, and every listing on the street will be shown.

The site is set up as a reverse phone book search engine. You can learn the addresses from the phone number. And there is more. When an address is given, a link to a map is usually shown as well. Click on it and a map of the area (produced by MapsOnUs), address centered, appears. You can print, download, or obtain a different map of the area around that address according to some of your own specifications. You can pan in one of eight compass point directions. Or, the really neat part, you can have the map displayed scaled from 0.05 mile (less than a football field) to 700 miles to an inch.

You don't know the phone number? Replace the "tel" (telephone) in the URL with "res"(residence) to get the listings and maps directly. What if the street name is not shown as a link even though the name matches the phone number? Try the library.

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Large Hard Drives, *continued*

partitioned in 500MB drives. The second is to wait until the Microsoft Win95 OEM Service Release 2 is available from your computer manufacturer. This option, of course, is only available on new computers, so do not expect an upgrade for this to be available from Microsoft.

Remember, no one else is as interested in your computer system as you are. It is in your best interest to know as much as possible to keep it up and running. If you do not, it will either cost you big bucks to repair it or buy a new one, and trade-ins are the exception!

Randy Waters is a communications and information system security analyst for the federal government. At other times he helps small businesses use their computer resources more productively and connects them to the Internet. During his spare time, he volunteers his experience to the Alamo PC Organization, First Presbyterian Church and the San Antonio Independent Living Service. He can be reached at watersdc@worldnet.att.net.

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SIG News

Internet

Martin Rosenblum(m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

December 3: Started with latest Web News: Microsoft anti-trust trial drags on, while SUN victor in suit against Microsoft for changing Java (to make it work faster in Windows.) New Internet Board Could Shake Up Country Domains (From NYT). Can you imagine the mess and conflicts if domain registration were to pass into the hands of individual governments! (Another reason to regret the passing of Jon Postel.) 3COM PLANS $800 WIRELESS PALMPILOT. Direct to your palm via the Internet: news, weather, stock quotes. Uncle Sam wants you online (register for the draft at *www.sss.gov*). (Speaking of our friendly government, the IRS has a new online service called e-file, which allows you to file both federal and state returns by filling out one online form.) ZDTV is now available in West Essex on Comcast Channel 64. Lots of computer corn interspersed with good stuff like John Dvoraks Silicon Spin, a round table discussion with movers and shakers, sometimes. Microsoft IE 5.0, available in beta, is described in ZDNet. Go to *www.zdnet.com* and search for IE 5.0. The MP3 & Rio *vs.* record industry fight can also be found there by searching for Rio. Then our guest speaker, Howard Rosen, a member from the ACGNJ Genealogy SIG, who had just returned from a trip to Poland to seek out his roots. See the Internet Corner section on Genealogy. I brought along two new programs, a Norwegian browser called Opera and an e-commerce toy called e-wallet. While Opera isn't free, it's less than 2 MB and is different enough from the familiar browsers to be worth a look. E-wallet gives you a GUI wallet you fill with copies of your credit cards, mailing address, etc. It even has a place for your favorite photo. Information is stored in encrypted form to be safe from use except by you. If you're filling out an order form on a Web page, you click on the icon on your task bar, give the password, select a credit card from the wallet, and drag and drop it onto the form, which is then magically filled out for you. E-wallet drew roars of paranoia from some of the assembled Netizens who suspect it would steal all your information and send it to E-wallet's CEO.

January 7: Our noble vice chair, John Raff, will lead the annual voting for chair and run the meeting, as well. He'll do our usual stuff after the election business, and following the Home Networking theme of the Main and PC User Group meetings, we shall be looking for material and speakers in the area of Intranetworking.

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

The Macintosh group generally meets on the fourth Friday of the month in Hill Center, Room 114, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. In June, November, and December, the meeting is usually pushed to the third Friday. The meeting starts at 7 pm. We meet in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 pm for those people that come to the meeting straight from work.

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

January 14, 1999: Tentatively, we will have a demonstration of some of the latest trading software currently available. This will be helpful for all both contemplating trading on line and helpful for making those buy and sell decisions.

December 10, 1998: Dick Boyd, our SIG Co-Chairman talked about the benefits of foreign banks and mutual funds. He gave a brief overview of asset protection and how an offshore presence can help make you immune to judgements from creditors, the IRS, or an ex-spouse. We learned which jurisdictions offer unique privacy protection where it is a violation of law for anyone, including bank officials, to disclose the details of your bank or Visa transactions. No reporting to credit bureaus or government agencies is allowed.

Members learned why they might want to consider the benefits of placing a portion of their funds offshore. Unique investment opportunities exist overseas. We found out why they are not offered to US citizens and how we can take advantage of them.

A few of the specific topics covered were: How to set up a tax deferred IRA-like investment plan, which does not carry all the restrictions that the US Government imposes. How to borrow low, lend high and get annual yields approaching 35%. Checking accounts where you can write a check in any one of 14 different currencies and get just one combined statement. Where to get guaranteed annuity plans with minimal withdrawal penalties, total privacy and asset protection, which have returned an average 10% return to US citizens over the last 25 years. The differences between tax avoidance and tax deferral, which are legal, and tax evasion and tax fraud, which can bring you serious trouble. IRS regulations and US laws that must be complied with in order to legally invest overseas. Dick handed out information on sources for further information and several international clubs and organizations that can help you.

PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)
www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html

January 15: Follow-up to the January 8 Main Meeting topic, "Building the Home Network, Part I: Theory," by Frank Warren. We expect that the Main Meeting will not be long enough to cover everything and that you will have questions, so this month's PC User Group meeting is devoted to follow-up questions.

February 19: Follow-up to the February 5 Main Meeting topic, "Building the Home Network, Part II: Practice," by Frank Warren. Frank will string a network in real-time during the Main Meeting. We expect that after you try this at home, you will have a lot of questions, so this month's PC User Group meeting is devoted to answering those questions. A home network can cost less than $50 ($20 for the network card, $10 for the cable). You can do it.

continued

C/C++

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

December 98: General Purpose Timer

Next to my computer at home I have a small electronic kitchen timer that I use periodically to test computer programs or installation procedures. It's often useful to know how long program takes to install. The timer that I have is accurate to one second and is generally more than adequate for my needs.

I realized how ridiculous is to have a multi-megabuck computer sitting here and needing a separate timer to perform certain tests. Therefore I decided for this month C Users Group meeting, that I would create a software timer that has the same functionality.

The timer is based on Microsoft foundation classes (MFC) and is compiled using Microsoft Visual C++ version 5. There is a large display for numbers over an inch high. Several buttons provide start and stop functions. Extra features of this timer include the ability to start the timer from the command line such as in the middle of a batch program and to identify the timer so that more than one event can be timed. Just for fun, I wrote a simple batch program that starts 50 timers at once.

You can get the source code and the executable programs from links on C User Group home page: *http://www.blast.net/barnold/* Look for the current month. The source code and executables will be available directly from the ACGNJ ftp server:

ftp://ftp.acgnj.org/pub/acgnj/cug/Csig9812.zip

Home Networking Series

by Jo-Anne Head

In January and February, 1999, the ACGNJ is having a 4-meeting series on Home Networking.

A home network can cost less than $50 ($20 for the network card, $10 for the cable). You can do it, and if you attend these four meetings, you will know how.

On ***January 8*** at the Main Meeting, our President, Frank Warren, will speak on "Building the Home Network, Part I: Theory."

We expect that the Main Meeting will not be long enough to cover everything and we expect that you will have questions, so the PC User Group meeting on January 15 is being devoted to follow-up questions. It is not all that easy to network your home computers if you've never done it before!!

The ***February 5*** Main Meeting will have practice where the January meeting had theory. Frank Warren is hosting "Building the Home Network, Part II: Practice." Frank and other ACGNJ members will put together a network in real- time at the meeting.

We expect that after you try this at home, you will have a lot of questions, so the February 19 PC User Group meeting is devoted to answering those questions. Jo-Anne has invited a couple of networking super-techs to come to all four meetings. They will be in the audience, ready to pitch in if anyone has a question that goes beyond our members' knowledge.

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez

(cybertech72@bigfoot.com)

The MultiMedia and Mobile Computing Activity meets at 7 P.M. the same night as PC Users Group, and will introduce the topic being discussed at PCUG.

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

and Jim Cimino (cominoj@bright-ideas.com)

Meeting Schedule and Location Changes

Due to a relocation of the offices of Corporate Software (our normal meeting place for the last 3 years), we are relocating to Rutgers University for our monthly User Group Meetings. Also, because of classroom schedules and stuff our meetings will be moved to the third **Friday** of the month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Corporate Software for their cooperation and support in letting us hold our meetings in their facility for the last three years.

Lotus Notes User Group Meetings will be at 112 Hill Center, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Our meeting will still start at 7 P.M. and I will be there usually around 6 P.M. (although some of us will be meeting in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 P.M. —for those people that want to get there really early)

For directions be sure to check out our Web Site's updated Meeting and Direction page (*http://www.njlnug.org*).

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda

(matthew.skoda@acgnj.org)

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or persons who are just interested in getting started. Watch the ACGNJ Web page for updates.

MCP Study Group

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

The Microsoft Certified Professional Study Group, meets every Wednesday from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. to study for the Microsoft certification exams. Study is based on a MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) prep book and there is hands-on experience networking machines. For more information see the MCP group Web page: *www.planet.net/jwong/acgnj/mcp/* or contact Scott Vincent or Jim Wong (*jimw@planet.net*).

Main Meeting

January 8, 1999: Frank Warren on "Building the Home Network, Part I (Theory)."

February 5, 1999: Frank Warren hosts "Building the Home Network, Part II (Practice)."

PC User Group meetings for January and February will follow up on the Main Meeting presentations to answer questions from members.

continued

Perfect Motherboard, *continued*

password. I confess I really don't know much about this feature.

The "Keyboard Power On" function can be enabled by the same set of jumpers. Again, you must be using an ATX cabinet for this to work. Here are the directions from the book. "Step #1: Push the momentary switch on your system and then push again and hold for 4 seconds to turn it off as soon as you turn it on. Step #2: You can now enjoy the Keyboard Power On function by pressing any 1 or 2 keys on your keyboard at the same time for 1-2 seconds. Your system will be turned on automatically, after releasing the keys. To power off your system, you can use the Soft-Off function in Windows 95." I would just as soon turn the system on with my Power Director — it's just another toy I don't need.

Installing the new motherboard, loading Windows 95 and all the device drivers took 2 ½ hours. I am very pleased it went so well. I found this to be a pretty nice motherboard and think I did the correct thing in buying the Epox. I will try to talk one of my friends into buying the FIC Va-503+ or FIC PA-2013 (ATX Case needed) and see how it runs compared to my EPOX EP-51 MVP3E. I do recommend this board. It seems to be very stable and it installs with no problems.

To finish up, I did some fast benchmarks with Norton Utilities and this is the net result. (Remember, at this stage I haven't yet tweaked the board. I used mostly default settings. I will go into the CMOS settings and play with them later, since I feel I can do better.) The System speed came in at 117.1 (the Intel PII-300 clocks in at 140.2, which Norton uses for as a benchmark guide). My Intel 233MMx clocks in at 60.4. I am impressed already, and will do a series of tests later. The Multimedia overall benchmark was 13.7; the Video 10.4; 3D 13.4; Audio 24.8; CD-ROM 1.8; and the Imagining at 33.4. This was in line with some of the best equipment out there and my hardware isn't the newest. I can increase the speed of the CD by changing the quad speed out

SIG News, *continued*

VBA

Jim Ditaranto

VBA = Visual Basic for Applications

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access. In the future, Microsoft will implement VBA in Microsoft Word and in Microsoft PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend.

The meetings start at 7 P.M., at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. We will start a new schedule — every 4th Monday of the month, starting January 25th. The topic for the Monday, January 25th meeting will be "Year 2000 Issues in Visual Basic for Applications".

Jim Ditaranto can be reached at (201) 986-1104, or *fryr92a@prodigy.com.*

Random Access

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

Those of us who have been involved in computer user groups for a long time remember when the Random Access Session was the only source of information about your particular computer.

Even though PCs and the software that runs on them are pretty much standardized now, users occasionally have problems or want more information.

Random Access is for ***everyone***. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Everyone usually benefits from the discussed topics regardless of their level of expertise. Many of the regulars can help solve your problem or at least get you started in the right direction.

This is an official "Newbies too" group.

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

Someone will win a copy of Ultimate Family Tree at our January 28 meeting. Don't miss it!

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	FOREIGN	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	$25	$10	$55	$20	$20
2 Years	$40				
3 Years	$55				$45

Mail this application and your check to:

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.0. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

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❑ **Do not** list me in the Membership Directory. (Street addresses are not listed in the directory.)

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	**NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group:** Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	**New York Personal Computer Club:** For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	**Brookdale Computer Users Group**: 7 pm,3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	**Macintosh User Group**: Third Tuesday, Mallory Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 or (201) 659-1017.
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	**Hunterdon Computer Club:** 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	**PC Club of South Jersey**: 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel U., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	**Central Jersey Computer Club**: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	**NJ PC Users Group:** Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (973) 635-5393.	**Fairlawn Computer Club**: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (*fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com*)	**Princeton PC Users Group**: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, *http://www.ppcug-nj.org*
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

ACGNJ Hotline

(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

All numbers below will connect to the ACGNJ BBS. Call the **first** number in the list that is local to you.

(732) 247-2273 New Brunswick

(732) 297-2211 * Franklin Park

(732) 752-9285 Dunellen

* Local to Cranbury, Princeton and Plainsboro in 609 (use all ten digits).

Other Bulletin Boards

(215) 432-5699 Bill Earnest

(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

For a comprehensive listing of NJ bulletin boards, look for and download GSBBS???.ZIP (Garden State BBS List) on a system near you.

Radio and TV Programs

ACGNJ's Bill Farrell: METV 12 (Metuchen), Thurs. & Sat., 8:30 p.m.

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, Wednesday 8-9 p.m.

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

CNet, Schedule on page 4.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 227-7770.

Computer Talk, WPHT 1210 AM, Saturdays 11 a.m-1 p.m.

Free Help Line

Dell Computer: Sundays 1-4 P.M. (800) 677-0874. Call with your questions.

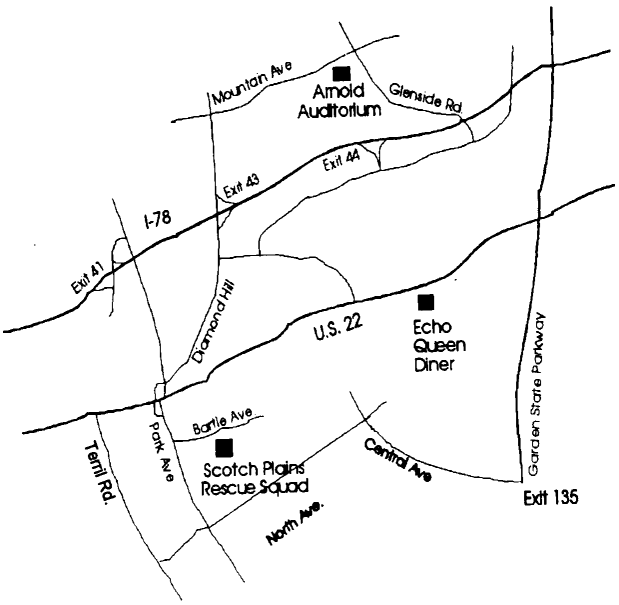
KGP Computer Shows

(More at *http://www.pcshow.com*)

January 9-10: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ

January 9: FDU Rothman Center, Hackensack, NJ

Jan. 30-31: William Paterson University Rec. Center, Wayne, NJ



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take either Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp and follow circle under Parkway. Bear right onto Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light onto North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right onto Martine (which turns into Park Ave.). Right onto Bartle Avenue in middle of shopping district.The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit for Scotch Plains (Exit 41) and follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross over Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. The exit is after a McDonalds Restaurant on the right, diagonally opposite the Scotchwood Diner on the left, and immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use the overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building. We normally meet upstairs, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.

ACGNJ NEWS

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ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, including weather cancellations, call our Hotline (908) 322-4654 or visit the ACGNJ Web Page (*http://www.acgnj.org)*

Friday, January 1, 1999
No meetings.
Newsletter Deadline. See page 2 for instructions.

Monday, January 4
8 P.M. - Lunics. Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.

Tuesday, January 5
7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 6
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, January 7
8 P.M. -Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Friday, January 8
8 P.M. - Main Meeting/Symposium: Networking, Part I. See SIG News for details.

Monday, January 11
8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, 908-359-8842.

Wednesday, January 13
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, January 14
8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 973-740-2489.

Friday, January 15
7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile Computing. Steve Rodriguez.

8 P.M. - PC Users. *http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html*. Jo-Anne Head, (908) 769-7385.

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes. New meeting place. See SIG News. Call our voice mail line, (908) 417-5778 ext 5, for last minute changes in plan/cancellations.

Tuesday, January 19
7:30 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold, 908-735-7898.

Wednesday, January 20
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Friday, January 22
7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, at Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu), (732-821-4828.

8 P.M. - Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793.

Monday, January 25
7 P.M. - VBA (Visual Basic, Excel). James Ditaranto, 973-772-7171.

Thursday, January 28
8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Monday, February 1
8 P.M. - Lunics. Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.

Newsletter Deadline. See page 2 for instructions.

Tuesday, February 2
7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 3
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, February 4
8 P.M. -Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Friday, February 5
8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

Monday, February 8
8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, 908-359-8842.

Thursday, February 11
8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 973-740-2489.

Friday, February 12
8 P.M. - Symposium. John Raff, (973) 533-0664esday, February 16

All club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J. Directions and map inside back cover.