

# Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 24, Number 8

October 1999

## ACGNJ — The Road Ahead

by Jo-Anne Head, Vice President, ACGNJ

Fall 1999 has gotten off to a Microsoft-focused start, with the September Main Meeting and PC User Group both focused on troubleshooting Windows95/98.

In October Microsoft is presenting to the Main Meeting on Office2000, followed up by PC User Group with Victor Laurie discussing Windows95/98 Tips and Tricks on system maintenance and performance tuning.

In November Microsoft returns for PC User Group with the Windows2000 PreLaunch Road Tour at Hill Center, Rutgers. And for November's Main Meeting we have Bill Machrone from PC Magazine talking on the topic of his choice.

In December we'll have the annual business meeting and elections, with a Main Meeting talk on Software for Kids.

The January Main Meeting will continue the emphasis on Microsoft with a Windows2000 beta tester giving us the inside scoop.

As the New Year progresses, we will move our focus to Home Automation for the February and March Main Meetings, with probable coordination/followup meetings at PC User Group those months.

Aside from our exciting meeting schedule, we have some on-going projects that will help the club substantially as we bring them to fruition. We are publicizing meetings more effectively through the Web and local newspapers, and we are starting to see more new people coming to meetings.

Also we are working to bring the ACGNJ membership database up-to-date. I am working on writing a Web-based application that will let us update the database over the web. This should lighten the load on our database people and result in better data, which leads to more people receiving the newsletter on time. We also want to see renewal notices go out to expired members and renewal reminders sent to those whose memberships who are about to expire.

We are looking forward to an exciting, active, and productive year for the club. ☺



### Coming Soon — Elections

ACGNJ Election of Officers and Board Members takes place at the December Main Meeting. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Bill Farrell, is seeking candidates for office. If you can volunteer some of your time to help ACGNJ, please call (732)572-3481 or email [wfarr18124@aol.com](mailto:wfarr18124@aol.com).



[www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org)

Founded 1975

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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.

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**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](mailto:david.lampe@entex.com)) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

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# The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

## Web News

*Item:* The Star-Ledger, September 5: “The Internet in the Library: Filter or Freedom?” This article by Ovetta Sampson discusses the use of filters in free public library Internet clients around Colorado Springs. (Our own host, INTAC, supplies filtered access to elementary schools to some New Jersey communities.)

*Item:* Same issue: “Congress considers mandates.” Same subject, but from a scarier perspective.

*Item:* Same issue: “For you, a Yiddish book (and in cyberspace yet!)” Yiddish, the primary language of the Jews of Germany, Russia and eastern Europe, has been in dramatic decline. Once heard everywhere in New York’s Lower East Side, it seemed to be dying out. Even the Israelis seemed to have no use for it. But, like Gaelic, it had a great folk literature. In an effort to archive what was left, Aaron Lansky set out in 1972 to collect whatever could be found in attics and even trash bins. They’ve collected some 1.4 million volumes, sheet music, etc. Now Steven Spielberg has given a grant to help start scanning them into a digital library which will be made available on the Net. ([www.yiddishbookcenter.com](http://www.yiddishbookcenter.com)).

*Item:* The Star-Ledger, September 8: “19-year-old pleads guilty to hacking Web pages of NATO, Gore and others.” “Zyklon,” a.k.a. Eric Burns, had produced a program called “Web bandit,” which found computers on the Net vulnerable to attack, and which he then hacked. I’m not sure how much actual damage he did to the hacked computers — as described, it seemed minimal — but he also did a service in my estimation, by revealing security holes in publicly available sites. I hope they, and many others, get fixed so they can’t be hacked.

*Item:* The Star-Ledger, September 9: “Using global medium to fight world poverty.” Our own Kevin Coughlin wrote this piece on “The U.N. celebrities and technology firms launch NetAid site.” Following the model of the Live Aid concerts of 1985, a new effort has been launched on the Web at [www.netaid.org](http://www.netaid.org). A concert will be held on October 9.

*Item:* Same issue: “Study: Internet offers just 19 degrees of separation.” Albert-Laszlo Barabasi of the University of Notre Dame estimates that any two Web pages are separated by an average of 19 clicks.

## Miscellany

E-ZPass, the electronic toll payment system in the New York area, has put up a Web site, [www.e-zpassny.com](http://www.e-zpassny.com) which is particularly useful. Not only do they offer information about their product and let you inspect and manage your account information, such as transactions, credit card changes, etc., but they also have links to weather reports, road conditions and events such as ball games which might affect traffic.

At the last SIG meeting we talked a bit about the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN ([www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)), headed by Esther Dyson. The subject was prompted by an interview of Dyson by Bill Griffith on

CNBC. I thought he was quite rude and there seemed to be an underlying current of suspicion that ICANN was trying to muscle into what should be a free market. Since Dyson is one of the champions of the free market philosophy, I was puzzled as to what was going on. I found a *Capital Dispatch* column in the Cybertimes of July 6: “Internet Governing Group Already Has a Watchdog.” The column talks about a new group at [www.icannwatch.org](http://www.icannwatch.org) formed by some law and telecommunications professors (David Post of Temple University and others). The column goes on:

“Post said the site was not intended to bash ICANN, but to serve as a place for objective news and analysis about the nonprofit corporation that has been tapped by the Clinton Administration to take over governance of the Internet.

“‘There is a lot of bashing going on, and it’s getting nastier,’ he said. ‘At this point, my goal is to help ICANN do a very difficult job. It’s a very difficult thing they’ve been offered. I have both sympathy and respect for what they are trying to do. I think they’ve made mistakes. We will point that out when appropriate. But I think this is also going to help them.’

“Still, Post emphasized, the focus could change — depending on ICANN.

“‘At some point, if we have to call for the tea party — as in Boston — then we’ll do it. This could get out of hand and be very dangerous in a hurry,’ Post said of ICANN’s policy making.”

Well, understanding that there may be a lot of money involved in governing the allocation of domain names and other powers that may derive from this, we have to examine the motives of all the players — even the watchdogs.

## More on Books

At our last SIG meeting, I couldn’t resist telling this one. On September 3 we went to the city to have a drink with a couple we hadn’t seen in five or ten years. They had tickets for “Chicago,” later that evening, so I went over to Duffy Square and got a couple of twofers for “The Weir,” a well-received British prize-winner. They went to their theater and we to ours. The play was fascinating, but the Irish dialect was hard to follow, especially in the beginning, so I thought I’d get a copy of the book. The next day I started trying to find it on the Web. My usual book sources, even the county libraries, were of no help, so I tried AltaVista. It showed showed up there, but that didn’t help me find a copy. Don’t remember why, but I found [amazon.de](http://amazon.de) and [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk). I tried [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) and there it was, for about 6.99 British pounds. I figured “what the heck” and started through the order procedure. While filling out the credit card info, they came back and said they already had it! (A remarkable feat of globalization!) I went ahead and ordered it on my card and was informed of the full charges. I entered these in my Quicken Visa register, typing a “P” for pounds at the end of the price and it magically converted it to dollars for me. (Ain’t computers grand?) Later that day I got my e-mail order confirmation, and the next day, September 5, notice that it had been shipped. Today, September 8, we were

*continued*

in the City again and on our return, there was “The Weir”, shipped by ordinary airmail from Slough (just outside of London), waiting for us in the mailbox!

Another book story. Many years ago, while I was working at Brookhaven National Laboratory, a colleague loaned me a book, *The Principles of American Nuclear Chemistry*. No, it wasn't about chemistry — it was a novel about growing up at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos laboratories. It was interesting in that it included some of the most famous people who worked there with names changed, and I don't know to what degree the tales about them were true, but from what I knew, it is believable.

Having forgotten many of the details, I tried to find the book in the local libraries. No luck! Then, back in July, I found a copy through [www.bibliofind.com](http://www.bibliofind.com) for \$6. I ordered it, but was informed that it had been sold already. They did have something called a “want list,” however, where I could advertise that I wanted it. Bibliofind is not a bookseller, as I have mentioned previously, but more like a bulletin board for books. *Amazon.com* had a similar service in its out-of-print books section. I registered in both places and promptly forgot that I had done so.

A few weeks later I got an e-mail stating that a book store in Sun Prairie, WI had a copy for \$25 in very good condition. In spite of the higher price — it can't have been more than \$2, new, back in the 50s — I sent for it. This time I was in time, and I received it shortly after. I was amused to see it was a Fond du Lac, WI Library discard. Oh, well. It was still a good read! Oh, yes — I also heard from *amazon.com* — they had a copy for only \$65.99. I e-mailed back that I didn't want it.

I don't want you to think that I'm tied to the Web for book purchases. A cousin we were visiting in the City directed us to the Strand Book Store, just around the corner. A fantastic place! Tons of books, new and old. But that's not all! As we walked in we passed a display of the Oxford English Dictionary. I was reminded of a book about the original version and one of its principal contributors, an American surgeon who was (unknown to the editors) a convicted murderer confined to an institution for the criminally insane. I remembered neither the title nor the author. I started to describe what I knew to a young lady at the information desk. Before I got very far, she said: “Look in Social Science under Winchester. *The Professor and the Madman*.” It's such a big, rambling store that it took me some time to find the Social Science section, but once there I zeroed in on the w's, and there it was! The list price was \$22. The Strand's price was \$11.91. I checked it out on the Net and the best price I found was \$18.86, and that was through the pricing site, [www.acses.com](http://www.acses.com), which, by the way, has just changed it's URL to [www.dealpilot.com](http://www.dealpilot.com).

By the way, the OED will be coming on line next March at [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com). Institutions will have to pay \$995 per year, but they haven't decided what to charge civilians yet. Check them out at [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com).

## Science

From Science Magazine's *Netwatch*: September 3: Have you ever seen the green flash at the end of the sunset? No? Try [mintaka.sdsu.edu/GF](http://mintaka.sdsu.edu/GF). For a really impressive set of computer aided design drawings of the pyramids of cheops visit [www.cheops.org](http://www.cheops.org). If you're a Net addict, or think you (or your spouse) might be, visit [www.netaddiction.com](http://www.netaddiction.com).

From the September 10 issue: Remember that figure eight thing on the globe in the middle of the Pacific Ocean? It's called an analemma and shows not only the seasons, but also the speed changes of the earth due to its elliptical path. Check out [www.analemma.com](http://www.analemma.com) for full explanation and pictures. Is your PC getting you down, Bunky? Well, your professor isn't much better. Do you want to see how bad s/he's doing? See [www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/prtechnology.html](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/prtechnology.html).

From the September 17 issue: “Know Thine Enemy” In the case of cancer, we once mentioned [oncolink.upenn.edu](http://oncolink.upenn.edu). It has gotten better. It is intended for patients and their physicians. It has a news feed from Reuters and University of Pennsylvania medical school professors contribute coverage of the American Society of Clinical Oncology meetings. They also post physician-written summaries of the latest journal articles on the subject. Then “It's a Small Web After All” — another report on the 19 degrees of separation paper. Or, how about dinosaurs? If you or your kids like them, check out artist Douglas Henderson's Web site devoted to the creatures, [gallery.in-tch.com/~earthhistory](http://gallery.in-tch.com/~earthhistory). For something a bit smaller, the transistor is the subject of a PBS display at [www.pbs.org/transistor](http://www.pbs.org/transistor).

From the September 24 issue: Did you stick by your barometer during the hurricane? There were any number of weather sites where you could get all kinds of data. There were even New Jersey shore webcams up and down the beach. But, did you know about the government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration site? Not only did they post weather reports, but every 18 minutes they update the tide readings at 135 NOAA stations across the country. Next big one, check out [140.90.155.52/tidesonline](http://140.90.155.52/tidesonline). Got a question about science? Try Dr. Universe, a service of Washington State University at [www.wsu.edu/druniverse](http://www.wsu.edu/druniverse).

The October Scientific American has its usual collection of Web-enhanced pages. The feature is “Observing Orbitals,” a piece on some work done at Arizona State University and reported in *Nature*. Physicists at the University have developed a new method picturing the orbits of electrons around the nuclei in Cu<sub>2</sub>O in a crystal of cuprite. The charge density map the picture is both beautiful and believable.

We've all seen and wondered at those nanomotors. Tiny they were, but in *Molecular Model-T* they are both organic and molecular in size. In fact, one step in the fabrication involved using genetically engineered E-Coli bacteria.

Then there's a piece on meteor showers and the Web pick of the month, named “How Many?” dealing with units of measure. Visit that one at [www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units](http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units).

*Nature* had two Net-related pieces in the September 9 issue: “Internet: Diameter of the World-Wide Web” by Réka Albert, Hawoong Jeong & Albert-lászló Barabási (see 19

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# On The Horizon

## Shareware Favorites, Part 2

by Ron Murawski ([the\\_murs@pipeline.com](mailto:the_murs@pipeline.com))

This month's column presents the second half of my basic software tools for everyday computer use. They include utilities and applications. Only a few are mainstream commercial products — most are shareware offerings. Here they are, presented in alphabetical order.

### MemTurbo - Windows 98/NT Utility

This is a newly-installed program for me. I am very pleased with it. Simply put, it defragments your memory (RAM), recovers memory leaks and flushes unused libraries and DLLs from your system memory. It appears as an icon in your system tray. When Windows resources degrade to a specified amount, it automatically runs and recovers them.

MemTurbo claims it "...increases your memory cache hit rate and improves locality of reference for data, thereby increasing the efficiency of the L1 and L2 caches present on your processor or motherboard. ... avoids costly swap file access and paging, decreases load time and improves application performance. MemTurbo can increase the amount of both physical and virtual memory available for use."

All I can say is that before MemTurbo I had to reboot Windows98 about every second day due to lack of resources. The blue screen of death messages were, of course, not helpful in trying to figure out why crashes were occurring. Since using MemTurbo I reboot weekly. Although I'd prefer not to reboot at all, this has been a tremendous improvement for me. Try it for yourself by going to <http://www.memturbo.com/>.

### MultiEdit - Programmer's Text Editor

Just as a newborn will attach to any available mother-figure, programmers seem to imprint onto their first editor. My first editor was WordStar. When WordStar became too old, archaic and limited for my purposes I was forced to find another editor. MultiEdit was what I found. I liked the ability to configure it for WordStar commands and cursor movements. I loved that it was programmable. I get a warm, fuzzy feeling everytime I use it. My DOS version of MultiEdit goes back to 1989 and I still use it. You can download the Windows 95/98 trial version from American Cybernetics at <http://www.multiedit.com/>.

If you are a programmer, this editor is as good as any. Almost all programming languages are supported. There is a free add-in called WebLair that enables editing of HTML code. I use the Watcom C compiler — MultiEdit insinuated itself inside the Watcom IDE to become the default editor. I now enjoy syntax highlighting and a fully customizable editor with a C-like macro language.

MultiEdit is written in MultiEdit macro language and can be modified in any way desired. If you had an older editor with a feature you can't find in a current editor, don't despair! Write what you need in MultiEdit macro language and graft it into MultiEdit, but before you do, check out the currently available macros maintained by American Cybernetics. Someone else has probably done it for you already.

### Netscape Navigator - Web browser

Netscape has made its Navigator browser available for download to Internet surfers for as long as I can remember. It has all the features I want. I use Netscape Navigator instead of Microsoft Internet Explorer for one major reason: I can organize my bookmarks into nested directories. The ability to separate my neatly categorized bookmarks from my wife's haphazard heap saves me untold hours of frustrated searching for the bookmark I want to use. You'll find it at <http://home.netscape.com/computing/download/index.html>

### PC-Config - Hardware Identification

If you have to identify all the equipment inside an unknown computer, this is the program to use. Discover the CPU, motherboard, amount of RAM, peripheral cards and a host of other information. A benchmark is included to help compare performance. Get PC-Config from Michael Holin's website: <http://holin.com/indexe.html>.

### Star Office - Office Productivity programs

Go to Star Division's web site (<http://www.stardivision.com>) to download the latest version of Star Office and try it for yourself. Be prepared to download a 62 MB file. Star Office is completely free for personal use. Star claims full Microsoft Office file compatibility. I have imported several dozen Microsoft Word files and, so far, Star's been perfect. Star offers word processing, spreadsheet, presentation graphics, charting, email client, news reader and much, much more. Star runs on many hardware/software platforms: Windows 95/98/NT, OS/2, Sun Solaris (Sparc and x86), and Intel-based Linux systems. This is a heavy-duty package that does not skimp on features. If you decide to purchase the Deluxe edition (with additional filters, templates, clipart and fonts), the price is a very affordable \$40.

My second reason for using Star Office is that it is not part of the Microsoft Outlook-Office package. My wife and I get lots of email. She is a casual user and does not hesitate to double-click. By not using the Microsoft Office package I am protected against the new wave of viruses and worms that specifically target Microsoft Office applications. These message attachments with evil intent work by taking advantage of a non-secure system. Star increases my security and that is never bad.

### WinAmp - MP3 player

Winamp (<http://www.winamp.com/>), from Nullsoft is a fast, flexible, high-fidelity music player for Windows 95/98/NT. Winamp supports MP3, CD, Audiosoft, Audio Explosion, MOD, and WAV audio formats. You customize WinAmp's appearance by applying various "skins". The "dancing fountain" audio visualization is well done. Audio effect plug-ins are available. Download Winamp, and try it for free. It costs only \$10 to register your copy.

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# Life for My Old Computer

by Cass Lewart

After living for 2 years with my wife's discarded 450 MB hard drive I decided to splurge. Even with double-space I was running out of space and could no longer install all the new goodies. A CompUSA ad for a 6.8 GB Maxtor hard drive for \$100 (after rebates) was irresistible. Sunday morning Ruth and I went to the Freehold store and got one of the few drives in stock. The drive came with mounting brackets, an IDE ribbon cable, a short instruction sheet and a diskette which was supposed to guide the user through the installation process. Maxtor also has a toll-free number for technical support.

My original plan was to make an image of my old drive on the new drive and proceed from there. My old configuration was the hard drive as master on the primary IDE and the CD-ROM as slave on the primary IDE. I therefore planned to connect the new drive as master on the secondary IDE.

Before physically installing the new drive, following instructions, I ran the installation program by booting from the Maxtor disk. The program started well but soon deteriorated into an endless loop asking repeatedly to insert the same floppy disk into drive A. Nothing could convince the program that the disk was already there.

After a few tries I gave up on the Maxtor installation program and connected the new drive to the secondary IDE socket on the motherboard with the new cable. When I restarted the computer I was greeted with multiple beeps followed by a blank screen. Time to call Maxtor! After a short wait I got a live tech support person. "Blank screen — your BIOS can not support the large drive. The solution is either to get a BIOS flash upgrade (\$70 from an Award distributor) or a Phoenix BIOS extension on an ISA card for \$40". The second solution being the one recommended by Maxtor.

I ordered the BIOS extension and the card arrived 2 days later by FedEx. I installed the card, plugged in the new drive as the secondary IDE master and guess what — the computer beeped and the screen went blank again!

At this point I decided to physically replace the old drive with the new drive as master on the primary IDE. I booted with an old Win95 "rescue" disk and was able to partition the new drive with FDISK into three 2 GB and one 340 MB partitions. I still needed the BIOS extension card; without it I could only access 2 GB of the new drive. My conclusion was that there was something wrong with my secondary IDE (It turned out to be incompatibility between the IDE socket on the motherboard and the new IDE ribbon cable — a subject of a future investigation). While connecting and disconnecting the hard drives I also reversed by mistake the old IDE ribbon cable (unlike the new cable it is keyed only on one side). Though I was afraid of having "fried" the hard drive, it survived this experience unharmed!

Thus I was unable to "image" my old hard drive to the new one, but with a Zip drive holding my data I quickly reinstalled Win95 and other programs. With a fresh Win95 installation the programs ran twice as fast as before. I then upgraded to Win98 (subject of another article) with only minor difficulties, and am now wallowing in all those free Gigabytes. I wonder how long it will take to fill them up. ☹

# Windows 98 My Experiences

by Cass Lewart

Having recently installed a large hard drive (see my previous article) I decided to bite off another bullet and install the Win98 upgrade. At this point I had a working Win95 system with one 6.8 GB hard drive divided into C, D, E and F partitions with the CD-ROM assigned to drive G.

I inserted the Win98 upgrade CD and started the installation process. After a few preliminary dialog boxes things started going bad.

While the installation program was checking drive E, which was empty except for 4 hidden files, it announced that there was a problem, and suggested running SCANDISK /ALL from DOS. I ran SCANDISK, the test passed with no disk errors detected. Still after restarting the installation, the program objected again, this time to drive D having problems. When I performed SCANDISK again, the installation program complained about drive C.

At this point I gave up on the standard installation and decided on a hunch to install Win98 from the pure DOS mode. I inserted the CD and typed G:\SETUP from DOS. The initial Windows dialog boxes appeared now in the DOS screen, I pressed the Enter key a few times, the program ran SCANDISK, found no problems and continued with an uneventful installation. The total installation time (including manual SCANDISK), was just under one hour.

I cannot tell if your computer will behave the same way during installation as mine did. I did not have time yet to explore all the new features of Win98 but so far I am quite pleased with it. Here are some initial impressions:

- The desktop looks and behaves the same as my Win95 desktop did.
- The rescue disk now allows input from CD-ROM drive.
- In a week of operation the system hung only twice and recovered well.
- The computer runs faster (this may be due to a clean Windows installation). It also shuts down in only a few seconds.
- All my programs still run, though Plug-and-Play remains as elusive as ever. Win98 did not recognize my internal modem on boot, I had to request it to search for the modem.
- Win98 has so-called accessibility options, e.g., high contrast, large fonts and magnification of part of the display for people with vision problems. It also provides many special keyboard and mouse options for people with other disabilities. ☹



# Adobe GoLive 4.0

## Professional Web Page Creation

By Sol Libes (sol@apcug.org)

I have long been a fan of Adobe products. I think they are the best at what they do. I refer to products like Photoshop, Pagemaker, Acrobat, and Pagemill.

I began creating Web pages in the early days of the World Wide Web using a text editor, which meant learning HTML (HyperText Markup Language). It was possible to create only simple web pages. Then Adobe introduced Pagemill, the first WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) Web page editor. I bought a copy and started creating some impressive pages. It was easy to use and allowed me to do things that had been difficult, if not impossible, with a text editor.

Many applications, such as word processors, include filters to convert a document to an HTML web page file. However, they leave much to be desired. They limit creativity, often require editing the HTML tags to correct problems, and produce pages that do not look exactly like the originals. They may work for simple Web pages with simple graphics, but doing it right requires a program designed especially for creating web pages.

HTML has changed a lot in the last two years. One can create complex animated pages using Dynamic HTML, java applications, javascript functions, context-based frames, sounds, music, animated images, and more. Adobe Pagemill did not keep up with the changes, and other companies introduced web page editors that enabled those with artistic talent to really express themselves. Adobe has responded with GoLive 4.0, a product for professional Web page developers. Adobe still sells Pagemill for those with less demanding web page development needs.

Adobe acquired the program (previously a Macintosh program named CyberStudio) in January from the company that developed it. Adobe created a Windows version, enhanced it, improved the documentation, and provided the kind of support Adobe is known for. If you were a Mac GoLive user, you will welcome enhancements to the user interface, improvements in cell and text formatting, new site management capabilities, features to utilize the latest HTML functions, and creation of QuickTime movies.

The price of GoLive has gone up to \$299. If you are an owner of CyberStudio, or own Adobe Pagemill V3.0 the price is only \$99. Owners who purchased CyberStudio Professional 3.x after January 1, 1999, are eligible to receive a free upgrade to Adobe GoLive 4.0 with proof of purchase. For information, call Adobe at 1-800-685-3612

You will need a fast machine to run GoLive. Adobe specifies a 200MHz processor, Windows 98, 24MB RAM, 30MB of hard disk space, and Internet Explorer 4.0 or later. In reality you need an even faster processor and more RAM to make this product run smoothly.

### Testing GoLive

GoLive arrived at just the right time. I had to create a new set of web pages for a project I was doing for the Association of

Personal Computer Groups (of which our club is a member and I am on the Board of Directors). This gave me the opportunity to do a real user evaluation.

The GoLive manual (435 pages) is impressive. Unfortunately it is printed in black and white — color would have helped. A quick reference card is also provided.

The CD includes copies of the Acrobat Reader and Quick Time (V3.0.2). I was disappointed to see that Quick Time was not the latest version, which can be downloaded from the web. Acrobat Reader was the latest version. The CD includes “tryout” versions of eight other Adobe products, as well as several samples of web pages and Quick Time movies that you can use as templates for creating your own web pages and movies

Another disappointment was the small number of sample web pages (2) and graphics images (17). However, there are plenty of pages created with GoLive on the web that you can use as templates — just do a search on “GoLive.”

Chapter 1 of the manual had a tutorial that takes about an hour, in which I created a web site comprised of three pages. It included inserting text and GIF images, rollovers, JavaScript, and even animation. It covers the basics in 29 pages. You should be prepared to spend a lot more time learning the details of the more advanced features. I missed the in-depth CD tutorial that comes with Adobe Photoshop. There are a few interactive tutorials that can be viewed on the Adobe web site or downloaded to your system. I recommend the latter as the tutorials go very quickly and you may want to slow them down for viewing

### Features, features, features

GoLive is loaded with features:

**Outline editor:** to speed up the development of large projects.

**Frames editor:** to control framesets and coordinate them with pages with two preview modes (one for frames, and the other for the current page itself).

**Javascript Support:** built-in javascript creator/editor, and some pre-written javascripts for commonly used-things like mouse-overs and other user actions, which you can drag into the document editor. There are canned cgi scripts as well. There is support for VBScript and other non-Java scripting languages. It can read and write both XML and ASP code.

**DHTML Support:** a new HTML “technology” for animating web pages without hogging system resources or bandwidth.

**Cascading Style Sheet Support:** A Cascading Style Sheet creator/editor that is compliant with the W3C’s CSS1 specification. Further, it includes a component that corrects a Netscape Navigator bug. When a Web page with CSS code is displayed in a Netscape window and the user resizes the window, the result is often not pretty. Navigator loses track of where things should be displayed and the display frequently

*continued*

# Ghost 5.0

by Dick Freymoyer

**Ghost!!** This is not a ghost story and it's not a game. Something scary? Maybe, it depends on how you look at it. Ghost is a cloning program. Does it really work? Yes! If you have ever tried to copy one hard drive to another you know this does not work. There are a few files you can never copy and I have never been able to boot into Windows95 with a copied drive. For some time I have been looking at programs which claim to do what Ghost does, and this is the first one that really worked.

## What does Ghost do?

Ghost will copy a hard drive with any operating system on it (Windows95, Windows98, DOS, OSR1 & OSR2, Windows NT, Unix, OS/2, Linux, Netware and even Mac/PowerPC) and it is good for Fat12, Fat16, Fat32 and NTFS. As you can see, it covers most file systems also. I run Ghost from a DOS prompt. You can run it from within your operating program, but why take a chance? Ghost fits on and can be run from a floppy disk.

Let's say you have two computers with the same hardware and you want the drives loaded with the same programs and operating system. Ghost will do it for you.

You just bought a new larger hard drive and you want to use it for your boot-up drive. Ghost will do that. Ghost will Fdisk & Format your drive and Image the existing "C" drive. All you have to do is swap drives and you are up and running.

If you are working on networks and have several computers that all must have the same files or programs, Ghost will clone them for you. You go to each work station and install the drives. A reseller vendor, building and selling computers with the same hardware, will find this is a time saver.

Ghost will also work with tape backups, ZIP and JAZ drives and any of the many other drives out there. A great thing about using this program is that if you image or copy your hard drive and it later crashes, you don't have to start over. What a lifesaver! Hard drives don't have to be the same size or type in order to clone them. I am sure I have your attention now — what a deal for you!

## Running Ghost

When I opened the program, the menu that came up seemed very simple and I decided to see if I could run the program without reading the online manual.

I typed in **Ghost** and the menu read from top to bottom as follows. The Choices from the first page were **Local: LPT: Multicasting: Net BIOS: Options** and **Quit**. Under **Options** I found the following choices : **Image, Write, Buffering; Sure; No Int13; Reboot; Spanning; AutoName; Allow 64K Fat Clusters, Ignore CRC Errors, Override Size Limit** and **Image Read Buffering**. **Image Write Buffering** and **Image Read Buffering** were defaults. I didn't really know anything about some of the options, and I wasn't ready to look at the text files to find out yet.

Under **Local** I found three more choices: **Disk, Partition, and Check**. I figured **Disk** would start the Image or the cloning process. **Partition** would most likely partition the drive and **Check** would check the Integrity of the drives. A peek at **Check**, opens another sub-menu with **Image File** and **Disk**. What I conclude is that you can check the Integrity of a particular file or do the whole disk. So far so good — and I didn't have to read 200 pages. A click on **Partition** brings up **Selecting A Drive**, and shows my drives with Size, Label, Type, Fat tables, etc. I didn't go further since I didn't want to reformat my drives. I may try this later.

Now back to the first option, **Local**, then **Disk**. Another sub-menu came up, with three choices: **To Disk, To Image** and **From Image**. I'm not sure whether to choose **To Disk** or go **To Image**, so with my heart in my throat I clicked on **To Disk**. This brings up another page, where you select the source drive, in this case #1, then pick the local destination drive, which is #2. Good so far, now the choices were **quit** or **yes**, so I chose **yes**. The worst that could happen was that I would have to reload everything, but it seems data was being copied. (I have three computers, one of which is for testing hardware and software.)

It took exactly 11.34 minutes, 62MB/min, to clone 724 MB from a 6.2 GB hard drive to a 1.03 GB hard drive — greased lightning! Now, would this work if I made the new drive "C"? First, reboot to make sure my current setup still worked. Surprise, it didn't boot into Windows for some reason, so I went into Windows in Safe Mode and then rebooted and Windows worked great! The next day I checked the computer out to make sure everything was just fine in Windows95. I then looked at the files on "D" (the clone) and it looked good.

Now for the acid test: After I shut down, I reconnected "D" as "C" and took the original "C" out of the circuit. I did notice the used space in MBs was different between the two drives and this means that they are not really cloned alike for some reason. I went on anyway, and it worked without a flaw. I got into Windows95 without a hitch. This made my day, and I didn't have to read that manual file at all. Maybe I will read it sometime and see what I did wrong.

## Did I like it?

To sum up, I found Ghost very easy to use, very fast, and there were no glitches with my programs. Would I recommend it? Yes! It is designed for commercial use, but a single user will find it useful as well.

I downloaded my review software from the Web. You can buy Ghost for \$79.99 for a Personal copy, which is good for 3 workstations, but will not work on a network. The Professional version, including 25 licenses, is \$375, and it will do everything. Ghost was developed by **Binary Research International Inc.** ([www.ghost.com](http://www.ghost.com)), 5215 North Ironwood Lane, Suite 200, Glendale, WI. 53217, 1-888-GHOST-98 (1-888-446-7898), Symantec purchased Ghost shortly after I wrote this review, and it is now being packaged with Norton's System Works. ☐

# SETI@home

## Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence

by Sol Libes (sol@libes.com)

If you have seen the movie “Contact” then you know all about SETI, the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence. It involves huge radio telescope antennae, powerful receivers, and huge computers to process an incredible amount of data that is received. In fact, the researchers could not find enough computer time to keep up with the vast amount of data being collected. Processing involves searching for patterns in the signals. A pattern may indicate that there is intelligent life on a planet other than ours.

A few years ago SETI researchers hit on a clever idea. There must be a lot of personal computers out there idle — not being used for mundane tasks, like e-mail, games, word processing, etc. Further, most of these personal computers are, no doubt, connected to the Internet. Why not use their idle time to process SETI data?

So they created a program that you can download from the Web that will do just that. It is essentially a screen saver program. If you are not using your computer, it will switch to processing SETI data that it downloads from the SETI internet site. When your computer is processing the data you will see the display that is shown below ... a very impressive color screen saver display.

The project is called SETI@home. There are already estimated to be over 1 million personal computers participating in the project — including my personal computer.

It works like this: Your computer’s operating system (e.g. MS Windows or the Mac OS) can be set to automatically activate a screen saver program when it senses that you are not using either the keyboard or mouse. If you have installed the SETI@home screensaver program, it downloads a chunk of SETI data (approximately 1/2MB) to your system. This becomes your chunk of data and remains on your system until the whole chunk is processed. If the program does not succeed in processing the whole data set by the time you resume using the computer, it saves the work, picking up where it left off the next time the system is idle. When it finishes processing your data set it contacts the SETI web site again. It tells the SETI site if it found any pattern, sends information about it, and requests another data set to work on.

The whole process is automatic. You do not have to do anything beyond downloading the screen saver software and installing it. Participants are logged into an account which records their participation and they will get some credit for their work in the event that any sign of extraterrestrial life is found.

If you want to participate and help in the search, go to the SETI@home web site at <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/index.html>, register as a user and download the software. Be sure to look at the FAQ there. It will answer all your questions and more. There are a number of SETI projects going on. It’s fascinating reading. ☐

becomes scrambled. This component, when added to a page, eliminates that problem.

**Source Code Editor:** One can easily change between the WYSIWYG editor and the source code editor, staying at the same place in each. This makes editing easy. It has automatic indenting and uses colors to highlight HTML functions.

**QuickTime editor:** This provides support for the layers, audio tracks, text, and sprites in QuickTime.

**Site Management Tools:** These tools let you look at the entire site and see which pages are linked to other pages. Moving one page around with the mouse automatically alters the links in all appropriate pages. There are Upload and Download functions. The Download function downloads a page — images, sounds, and all.

### The User Interface

Everything is configured, setup, and tweaked using a floating window that changes contextually, depending on the current selection or cursor location in the editor window. A Palette window has ready-made icons in it that represent most of the HTML tags and web page options, ready to drag right into the editor window. The palette is fully customizable. It lets you setup commonly-used sets of tags and data ready to drag into the program. You can drag and drop almost everything in the application. Dragging colors from the color palette will set the chosen color to the selected items in the editor window. Dragging pages around in the Site Management window will adjust all links to match the organization of the site.

The icon-heavy interface is not always intuitive, particularly when you get into the advanced functions. It may take some time to master them, but once you do, you have the means to design complex Web sites with drag-and-drop functionality and precision positioning.

### Support

Adobe maintains a forum where users can post and read messages. They also have e-mail support and an 800 number. However, free telephone support is good only for 90 days from the date you register the product. After that you pay for telephone support. E-mail support appears to be free and without a time limit. It might be a good idea to delay registering the product until you need help.

### Conclusion

If you are a professional who creates and manages large complex web sites containing Dynamic HTML, cascading style sheets, QuickTime editing, JavaScript actions, or if you need pixel-level control, a powerful source-code editor, etc., then you should definitely check out Adobe GoLive Version 4.0. It has a steep learning curve, so if your web page creation needs are simpler and you want to save money, you should consider Adobe Pagemill instead.

Adobe has “tryout” versions of GoLive and Pagemill on their web site. They are full versions that will work for 30 days. Go to

<http://www.adobe.com/newsfeatures/tryadobe/main.html> ☐

# Ken's Korner: How-To and More

by Ken Fermoye

## Selecting and Printing Text from Web Pages

First, as in making Rabbit Stew, you must catch the rabbit! In this case, before you can print sections of text from Web pages you must first select the material, then paste it into an appropriate software program (e.g. WordPad, any word processor, MS Publisher, etc.). Do that by following these steps. (Selecting and Printing graphics is covered toward the end of this article).

1. Select desired text material in the normal manner by setting your cursor at the upper left corner of the text and holding down the left mouse button. Continue holding the button down and drag the cursor to the end of the material you want to select, then release the button. Your selected text should now be highlighted.

2. In the **Edit** Menu at the top of your screen, click on **Copy** (or use the *Control-C* keyboard shortcut). If you don't already have the target software application open, open it now via the **Start** Menu or a shortcut icon on your Desktop. (Let's assume you will use WordPad from the Accessories Group in the **Start** Menu. It's quick and easy, and everyone who uses Windows 95/98 has it available.)

3. In the **File** Menu, click on **New** to open a new document.

4. Make sure the blinking insertion pointer (vertical bar) is positioned at the upper left of the blank page.

5. In the **Edit** Menu, click on **Paste** (or use the *Control-V* keyboard shortcut). The selected material should now appear on the blank page.

6. Now you can either save the text (using **Save As** from the **File** Menu), edit it to reformat some of the text or to remove unwanted material, or print it (by going to the **File** Menu and selecting **Print**).

I do this all the time. Frequently, when researching a subject for a future article, I first create a file by following steps 3 and 4, typing in just a title and perhaps a few notes at the top of the page, then I use **File/Save As** to give the file a name and save it in an appropriate folder. I visit various Websites, select helpful material and use **Copy/Paste** (steps 1 through 5) to insert it into the previously created file.

I often use WordPad for this, but MS Word, Word Perfect or another word processor that offers a **Find** or **Find/Replace** function may be preferable if you assemble a large amount of text in a single file. Such software allows you to search for a word or phrase quickly and easily when necessary.

The process for selecting and Printing material from e-mail is the same. Follow the same **Copy, Paste, Print** sequence outlined above.

If you want to print an entire Web page, simply click on the right mouse button anywhere on the page. Select **Print** from the pop-up menu and follow normal Printing procedure.

## Selecting and Printing Pictures

Here's how to print a picture or other graphic from the Web:

1. Place cursor on designed image.
2. Click right mouse button.

3. Click on **Save Picture As**

4. Select the drive and folder where you want to store the graphic.

5. Save it under the original name, or give it a new name.

You can then print the graphic by importing it into an appropriate image editing program (e.g. Windows Paint, Photo Deluxe, Photo Shop, Photo Impact, etc.). Reminder: Web images are normally in low-resolution GIF or JPEG formats so they will not look as good when Printed as BMP, TIFF or other higher resolution images.

## Printing a Web Page Without its Graphics

A tip here If you're only interested in printing out the text on a page, just turn off the graphics. In Internet Explorer follow these steps.

1. On the **View** menu in the browser, click Internet Options.

2. Click the **Advanced** tab.

3. Select the **Multimedia** tab, and remove checks in the Show pictures, Play animations, Play videos, and Play sounds check boxes.

This will make Web pages load a lot faster, too. When you want to turn the pictures, animations, etc. back on, just reverse the procedure.

Actually, what I do is use two browsers — an older version of Netscape Navigator with graphics turn off, and a current version of Internet Explorer with all the goodies turned on. I use Navigator for research and other quick-and-dirty surfing, IE for normal Web wandering when I want to see all the graphics.

## E-Commerce Surging

If I owned a lot of shopping mall stock I'd be getting a little nervous right now. Commerce on the Web is taking off, and the afterburners will really be lit in the years ahead. A recent study by ActivMedia Research (first ever to quantitatively study Internet commerce, beginning in 1994) projects \$95 billion in electronic commerce for 1999 and a total of more than \$1.3 trillion in 2003!

The 6th Annual "Real Numbers behind Net Profits" study anticipates a revenue growth rate of 150% for 1999, more than double the original forecast of 72%, and a growth rate of 138% for 2000. ActivMedia reports Web revenues continue to flourish across all industry sectors as online buyers rely on the 'Net for a wider range of goods and services.

Here is how the growth pattern has been and is projected (in billions of dollars), according to the "Real Numbers" study: 1996, \$2.7; 1997, \$22; 1998, \$38; 1999, \$95; 2000, \$226; 2001, \$459; 2002, \$826; 2003, \$1324.

ActivMedia's VP of Market Research Harry Wolhandler offers good reasons. "Expanding cross-language capabilities create increasingly permeable global boundaries. Speedy digital information flow facilitates free trade and business worldwide. Political improvements coupled with faster, more efficient cross-cultural communications are fueling

*continued*

global e-commerce." A quick look inside "Real Numbers" reveals many interesting bits of data.

- 72% of websites are still based in the US
- 92% of e-commerce is generated through US-based websites
- Exports are becoming increasingly critical to US e-commerce growth
- 9 in 10 revenue dollars are product and service sales, not ads

The "Real Numbers behind 'Net Profits" annual study is based upon a random sample drawn from 550,000 English-language publicly listed URLs and "presents the most detailed information about online marketers available anywhere," claims ActivMedia Research, whose clients include Andersen Consulting, Cisco, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Visa, and Yahoo.

### Tip Korner

*Phone Combo Relieves Pain in the Neck:* How many times have you tried to juggle a phone receiver and follow instructions from a support technician using your keyboard and mouse? Tough, isn't it? I don't do it any more; instead, I use a headset plugged into a cordless phone. When I went shopping for a new cordless last fall I found a remanufactured Uniden 900MHz model on sale for half the price of a new one. Seeing that it had a headset jack, I snapped it up. (Note: I don't hesitate to buy remanufactured hardware if the refurbishing was done by the original manufacturer or its authorized supplier and it includes a reasonable warranty. I've had good luck with several remanufactured items over the years.)

I also got a Panasonic headset (about \$25). The combination is one of the best buys I've made in years. I use it for taking notes during phone interviews, conference calls and just plain chatting, but where it really shines is when calling tech support numbers. It eliminates pinning the phone receiver against your shoulder and neck during long "on hold" periods and leaves hands free for typing and mouse use as you follow instructions. Using the headset relieves me of a chronic pain in the neck. Any phone with a headset jack will work, but the cordless/headset combo lets me walk around and talk with the phone tucked in a shirt pocket.

*Brass Thumb screws Ease Computer Maintenance:* The least expensive, but probably the most convenient, items I use in maintaining our office computers are brass thumb screws to replace the normal screws used to attach case covers. (Photo at right.) They make quick work of removing and replacing the "lids" on our four computers. The thumb screws have the same diameter and pitch as the hex-head screws they replace, of course, but you don't need a nut driver or Philips-head screwdriver to remove and replace them. Look for them at computer shows, hardware departments or Websites that specialize in electronic components. ☺

# Windows2000

## PreLaunch Road Tour

The PC User Group of the ACGNJ hosts Microsoft on November 19, 1999 at Rutgers.

Location: Hill Center, Room 114, Rutgers-Busch Campus in Piscataway. Directions to Rutgers are available on the Web at <http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/rutgersdirections.html>.

Microsoft will demonstrate Windows 2000 and will have technical people on hand to answer all your questions. Come find out the latest tips and tricks about Windows 2000 through product demonstrations, Q&A and informal discussion with the Windows 2000 Development Team. We'll show you how you can get the most out of Windows 2000 Professional and Server.

Content will include (but will not be limited to):

- Multilanguage support
- How to use SysPrep
- Advanced Power Management solutions
- New networking capabilities
- Infrared support
- Content Indexing
- Disk Quotas and Disk Defragmentation
- Management via scripts
- Active Directory
- Group Policy
- An overview of how Windows NT 4.0 tools have been integrated into Windows 2000

and more. Giveaways include a copy of Win2K Release Candidate 2 for everyone, t-shirts for everyone, and there will be a raffle of Microsoft Office 2000 and of two Compaq Aero 1530 handheld devices. Come and win one.

Parking permits will be handed out at the meeting, so be sure to pick one up. Attendees should park in Parking Lot #64, which is located behind Hill Center.



### 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](http://www.cnet.com))

# SIG News

## PC Users Group

*Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)*

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html>

**October 15:** Victor Laurie on Win95/Win98 Tips and Tricks, especially relating to system maintenance and performance optimization.

**November 19:** Windows presents the Windows 2000 PreLaunch Road Tour. We will meet at Hill Center, Room 114, Rutgers-Busch Campus in Piscataway. There will be giveaways galore. Compaq is a co-sponsor with Microsoft. directions to Rutgers are available on the Web at:

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/rutgersdirections.html>

See you at Rutgers! ☞

## Symposium

*John Raff (jraff@injersey.com)*

**October:** Ron Murawski, an open discussion.

**November:** Celestial Automation, presented by the director of the Hunterdon College Planetarium.

**December:** Oscar Granison of Granison Video Productions will speak and demo linear and non-linear video editing using PC software. Granison Productions produces videos for Fortune 500 companies as well as the State of NJ Division of Public Safety. Oscar Granison and his son have made their Video Productions a very successful business. ☞

## 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. ☞

## Main Meeting

*Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)*

**October:** Office 2000, hosted by Frank Warren

**November:** Bill Machrone on any topic. Host Marty Rosenblum.

**December:** Business Meeting and Elections. The topic is Software for Kids, hosted by Peter Fillingham. ☞

## Investing

*Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)*

<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig>

September 9: As usual, Jim Jurado's appearance was greeted with much enthusiasm and an unusually heavy attendance.

He did have an important message for all investors. He mentioned that in addition to watching the producer price index, consumer price index, employment price index, and compensation per hour, the FED seems to have targeted the stock market as a source/reason for inflation. Although Jim did not express any opinion as to the FED's future action, (per Jurado, "No one can really predict the future FED actions!"), he elaborated on a scenario of what would probably happen if they raised interest rates further. This includes both the FED funds and discount rates.

He explained why discount rate changes have unusually exaggerated effects. If this happens, we can expect a drastic drop in the stock market, within about 3 months of the discount rate rise. His best suggestion for surviving such a pullback is an investment in money market funds, not stocks!!! Long term, he remains bullish, expecting the Dow to break 14000 in 2000.

Jim went on to explain many of the more exotic (to SIG members) economic indicators and how to interpret them. One he suggested as useful is the H-6 report, which is available at <http://www.clev.frb.org/Research/#data> Look for the particular report (in this case, H.6), then click on either releases or Historical Data.

For those who don't know Jim, he has an MBA from Pace University in Investment and Portfolio Management, 1991. A self-taught economist since 1977, he has been correlating economic statistics with changes in the policy of reserve management by the Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank System. In 1982, he designed a CAI tool to educate investors on how to interpret the charts and free information provided by the Federal Reserve and use such public information to track the economy and monitor the course of interest rates. Jim has the ability to make complex economic topics understandable and entertaining to all. ☞

## Lotus Notes

*Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)*

<http://www.njlnug.org>

Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, there was no meeting in September. Our next meeting will be on October 19. Subject to be announced — keep an eye on our Web page. Get directions to the meeting there too.

Don't forget to check out the Lotusphere registration site if you're planning on going to the 'Sphere in January: <http://www.lotus.com/Lotusphere>. ☞

*continued*

## Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Peter Fillingham ([pete@panix.com](mailto:pete@panix.com))

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.htm>

This is a group for those who share an interest in the Linux operating system and its relatives (UN\*X, BSD, Coherent, AIX, etc. ). Currently there is a strong interest in Linux as an alternative to other operating systems, especially since there is no charge for the system. It and its source code are freely distributable. Meetings the first Monday of the month. ☞

## Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez

([cybertech72@bigfoot.com](mailto: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. ☞

## VBA

Jim Ditaranto ([fryr92a@prodigy.com](mailto:fryr92a@prodigy.com))

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.

Meetings start at 7 P.M. on the fourth Monday of the month. ☞

## Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul ([ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu](mailto: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. ☞

## Random Access

Scott Vincent ([svincent@ix.netcom.com](mailto: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. ☞

## C/C++ Users Group

Bruce Arnold ([barnold@blast.net](mailto:barnold@blast.net))

<http://www.blast.net/barnold>

**October:** Presentation was on a C++ Desktop Launch Utility - Win32 API. A common operation working with computers is to return to the desktop. Your desktop often contains recent information, new icons, new programs and other features that you want to get access. Microsoft recognized this need by providing a MINIMIZE-ALL option on your taskbar. Windows 98 actually has an option on the taskbar for bring up a list of desktop utilities. Sometimes this is not enough. At work some of the programs that I use are so unfriendly that they will not allow themselves to be minimized.

The desktop is simply another folder on your hard drive. You can open it with Microsoft Explorer. Unfortunately the path is fairly long and not consistent between operating systems. I have written a desktop utility which displays a small icon on the taskbar. When you double-click on the icon the program launches Windows Explorer with the proper path to bring up the information that's normally contained on the desktop.

## Genealogy

Frank Warren ([kb4cyc@webwarren.com](mailto:kb4cyc@webwarren.com))

<http://www.webwarren.com/kb4cyc/gensig.html>

The Genealogy SIG is a group for genealogists who have an interest in computers and for computer users who have an interest in genealogy. We provide a forum to assist members in furtherance of both computing and genealogical endeavors. Meetings generally focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

In addition to our Web page the SIG also has an electronic mailing list. Messages to be sent to the list should be addressed to [gensig@webwarren.com](mailto:gensig@webwarren.com). Subscription requests should be addressed to [gensig@webwarren.com](mailto:gensig@webwarren.com) and include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☞

## Internet

Martin Rosenblum ([m.rosenblum@ieee.org](mailto:m.rosenblum@ieee.org))

**November 4:** Once again Harrison didn't make the meeting. I suspect the problem is that he uses the café as a teaching venue, and if he's got a student there, he's reluctant to leave. (Pure speculation on my part.) I did get an e-mail expressing regrets. In the Web news section I reported on the arrival of Eudora 4.2.2 that afternoon. I noted that a recent visit to my home town (Stamford, CT) library revealed that their Net station population had grown to 8 for general use and in the reference room, for research only—no chat or e-mail, there were now 18 Net stations. We discussed the November 2 *PC Magazine* article "Throw out your Software." This was in keeping with the Larry Ellison keynote at Fall Internet World. (But, then there's John Dvorak's piece in the the December 1 issue: "Web Computing Stinks.") We spent some time reviewing the access statistics for [www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org). Visits were up almost 50% over September and the audio file of Steve Schlesinger's September 17 PC User Group presen-

degrees of separation above.) and "Internet: Growth dynamics of the World-Wide Web" by Bernardo A. Huberman & Lada A. Adamic. Unfortunately you now need a subscription to read past issues, but in their open pages they now have *Nature Debates*. There are currently three raging: "Why are there so few women in science?", "Is the reliable prediction of individual earthquakes a realistic scientific goal?" and "Is the fossil record adequate?" See [helix.nature.com/debates](http://helix.nature.com/debates).

**Finance**

There's too much going on for a full report — I'll just say the baby is healthy and putting on weight. Lots of weight. The stakes get higher and the players are often confused. The management team that ran the bank and the brokerage may not understand the Web. There is talk of really opening up the trading of stocks and giving the public direct access to the "market makers." Perhaps banks have been premature in dismembering the people networks that gave each its distinctive flavor, since viewed through a computer screen they all look alike. As to how they're doing, I defer to [www.gomez.com](http://www.gomez.com) who keep their fingers on the pulse of these enterprises. Here's the scorecard at the moment:

For Banks, the top 4 are Security First Network Bank (the first Net only bank,) Wells Fargo, Net.B@ank, and, across the river, Citibank. (Chase loses out because of being too expensive — they charge for everything.)

For Brokers, the top 4 are E\*Trade, Charles Schwab, Fidelity and National Discount Brokers.

For Insurance, a relatively new and immature entry, the top four are Insweb, Insuremarket, Liberty Mutual and Quotesmith.com. Gomez, by the way, has broadened out to shopping, travel, health, auto and auction sites as well. ☞

**ZTree - File/Directory Browser**

Have you ever thought that there must be a better alternative to the Windows Explorer program? ZTree is it. I keep a copy of ZTree open at all times. This is my bread-and-butter productivity program. I use it to find or copy files and directories or look inside ZIP, JAR, ARJ etc. compressed files. You can use it to ZIP and un-ZIP, JAR and un-Jar, ARJ and un-ARJ etc. It is a text-mode program with more features than you would believe possible. If you do file searching, copying, archiving or unarchiving you need this program. Get it from <http://www.ztree.com/>. The unregistered version launches with the message that the program is not registered.

Well, there they are. This is the software I know and love. I'm sure I've skipped other worthwhile products, but I can only write about software I'm familiar with. If you've got a favorite you feel I've left out, email me and tell me about it. I might include it in a future column.

*Ron Murawski is a computer consultant from Staten Island, New York. Feedback or advice for future articles is invited. You can also read "On The Horizon" online at <http://www.castlemall.com/ron>. © Copyright 1999 by Ron Murawski. ☞*

**NY-NJ-CT Microsoft Events**

For information (dates and locations) on Microsoft events in the tri-state area, go to <http://www.microsoft.com> and click on events. ☞

**Hobbyist Alert**

The famous Herbach surplus parts catalog is now online. See <http://www.herbach.com/>. ☞

**ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	Dues	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.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

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Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ URL \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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 10.

**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>)

**Oct. 16-17:** So. Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken

**Oct. 23-24:** FDU Rothman Center, Hackensack

**Oct. 30-31:** National Guard Armory, Morristown (Free admission)

### ACGNJ Hotline

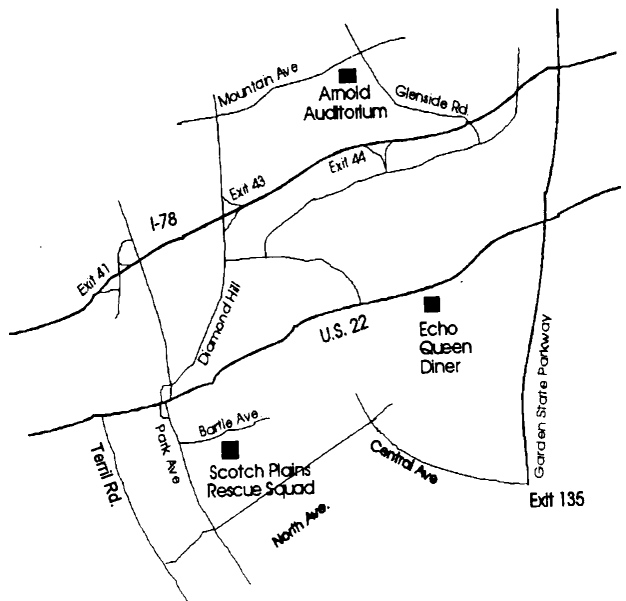
(908) 322-4654

### ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

The ACGNJ Bulletin boards were shut down in April due to lack of interest. Of the all the other bulletin boards previously listed in this spot, only one is still in operation.

**(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel**

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



## 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 low 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, October 1, 1999

8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

### Monday, October 4

8 P.M. - Lunics, Peter Fillingham.

### Wednesday, October 6

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

### Thursday, October 7

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

### Friday, October 8

8 P.M. - Symposium. John Raff, 973-533-0664

### Monday, October 11

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

### Wednesday, October 13

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

### Thursday, October 14

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

### Friday, October 15

7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile Computing. Steve Rodriguez.

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

### Tuesday, October 19

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

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.

### Wednesday, October 20

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

### Friday, October 24

7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, at Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Keith Sproul ([ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu](mailto:ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)), 732-821-4828.

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

### Monday, October 25

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

### Thursday, October 28

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

### Monday, November 1

8 P.M. - Lunics, Peter Fillingham.

### Tuesday, November 2

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

### Wednesday, November 3

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

### Thursday, November 4

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

### Friday, November 5

8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

### Monday, November 8

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

### Wednesday, November 10

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent ☐

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.