

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 24, Number 9

November 1999

Elections Coming

You're may not be done thinking about your local elections yet, but don't forget ACGNJ has elections too — the 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.

All Officers and five Directors are up for reelection, and competition is invited. Nominations can be made to the Nominating Chairman before the meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Current occupants of the chairs are listed below.

President	Frank Warren
Vice President	Jo-Anne Head
Rec. Secretary	David Lampe
Cor. Secretary	Elaine Lampe
Treasurer	John Sheetz
Directors	

Art Downer
Scott Vincent
Arnold Milstein
Martin Rosenblum
John Raff

Please come out and vote! Better yet, come out and volunteer to serve! ☹



Windows 2000 Presentation

PC Users Group meets at Hill Center of Rutgers Piscataway campus this month for Microsoft's Road Tour. Lots of information, lots of freebies. Don't miss it! See page 14 for details.



www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

In This Issue

Internet Corner, <i>Marty Rosenblum</i>	3	Hints for Travel with GPS, <i>Cass Lewart</i>	5
Free ISPs, <i>Sol Libes</i>	6	Free Long Distance, <i>Barbara DeGroot</i>	6
How Free are Free Computers, <i>Ken Fermoye</i>	7	Windows Registry, <i>Vic Laurie</i>	8
Dreamweaver 2, <i>Ibo Akyol</i>	10	One E-Mail Address, <i>Paul Shapiro</i>	10
C++ Standard Library (Book), <i>Bruce Arnold</i>	11	Government Threatens, <i>John Raff</i>	11
Streaming Video, <i>Sol Libes</i>	12	Y2K Fix for Old Computers, <i>Lewis Edge</i>	13
D'Ultimate Counselor, <i>Walter D'Ull</i>	14	SIG News	15

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most word processors or ASCII text are acceptable. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to Editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm by voice.** Date your review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone *and* name, address and phone of the product manufacturer, if available.

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 (4½ 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.

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The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

Item: Star-Ledger Business Section, October 26: "Going from text to talk on Net." Herb Zydney, a Bell Labs alumnus (Merlin PBX systems) offers for download a browser plugin called BeCall — you can voice chat with a friend or leave voice messages (www.becall.com). The article notes AOL is working on AIM Talk with similar functionality. It also notes AOL delivers about 800 million messages a day!

Item: New York Times Cybertimes, October 26: "Effort to Halt Cybersquatting Bill." Here's one we can be passionately ambivalent about. There was another story recently about a kid who had a Web site with a funky name and the acronym, "MSDW." Wouldn't you know it, the (relatively) newly merged Morgan Stanley Dean Witter finally decided to go on line, and guess what! The case is pending in Manhattan court. Don't you just hate to guess at a URL and find it brings up a page offering to sell the domain name? (Many seem to belong to the same cybersquatter.) The bill would apparently protect trade mark holders against someone else using the same word in a domain name. In addition, it infringes on some policies introduced recently by ICANN. Could the rush to justice be explained by the recent rash of rogues registering domains containing names of prominent politicians?

Item: Same Issue: "Court Bars Suit Against Internet Name Provider." A federal appeals court ruled that domain name issuers, in this case NSI, can't be sued for granting a domain name containing a trade mark to someone other than a trade mark holder.

Item: Star-Ledger Business Section, October 25: "Slice of the Web." Shortly after moving to Millburn, we discovered the Summit Cheese Shop, a delightful feast for eye, nose, and (when you got your purchase home) taste. This describes how they got online and the general situation with small retail businesses. The sub-head: "Merchants are slowly taking their stores online to capitalize on potential sales."

Item: Same issue: "They get 'A' in creativity." Ben and Keith Blonder create Web sites for Summit merchants. They did the Summit Cheese Shop, and they spice up their productions with digital photos of storefronts and interiors. Want to get in on the IPO? Profits are no great shakes since their prices are low, as little as \$50 for a Web page, but so is their overhead. They operate from a guest bedroom, and they're 12 and 10, respectively! Check their work out at www.shopsommit.com.

Item: Washington Post, October 22: "Online Banking — Follow the Virtual Money" An interesting article on the dog that didn't bark: Where are the Internet Bank startups? Since the first appeared in 1995 there have been only five added, with another half-dozen or so in the pipeline. It seems you have to jump through more hoops to become a bank, like having the FDIC approve your business plan, etc.

Item: New York Times Cybertimes, October 21: "U.S. Sets Rules for Children's Privacy Online." Mostly concerned with preventing Web sites from gathering and trafficking in information acquired about minor children who visit child oriented sites, these rules published by the FTC seemed to

win praise from children's organizations without incurring much opposition from either the right or left.

Item: New York Times Cybertimes, October 20: "University with History in Correspondence Ventures Onto Net." On October 7, Kentucky Virtual High School went on line. Whatever you think of online education vs. "real" education, consider the remarks of the governor: "The KVHS will make upper level math, science, foreign language, Advanced Placement, and other course offerings (including college courses for dual credit) available to every high school in Kentucky." You can't beat that! Many offerings were taken from Class.com, an earlier venture by the U. of Nebraska at Lincoln. The Nebraska program was patterned after their correspondence program of 164 separate courses which has a long and distinguished history, with roots "back in 1929, when the university's teachers college began a correspondence school program aimed at helping rural Nebraska students who hoped to attend the state university but were enrolled in schools so small they could not offer classes that were prerequisites to college."

Item: New York Times Cybertimes, October 20: "Britannica Joins the Internet Age." A few years ago, Britannica was trying to enter the computer age with a version on CDROM for \$450 and supplements available on the Net. We had a presentation at the Club by one of their reps. They seemed to have done a good marketing job, but the fact that most PCs now come with encyclopedias must have caused them grief in terms of home sales. Later, I did buy copies for my kids, since they've been selling for under \$100, and these were farmed out to someone like Broderbund to produce and package. Now, it seems they have given up on the home customer, and are making one of their Web sites, www.britannica.com, free to all, paid by ads, though they may continue with their old site, www.eb.com, for some time at \$5/month. After 231 years! Sic transit gloria mundi!

Item: Sunday Star-Ledger Front Page, October 3: "What a tangled Web the federal government wove." Our friend Kevin Coughlin writes: "ICANN has the unwieldy task of sorting out Net addresses." According to Kevin, "It's been pilloried as an 'edifice of Byzantine complexity,' an elite bureaucracy accountable to no one. A shill for big business, a stooge for bad government. If its fiercest critics are right, free speech is doomed." It seems to have enemies on both the right and the left, so they must be doing something right!

Item: The New York Times, Money and Business, Market Watch, September 26: "Wary of the Internet? Just Try to Avoid It." The figures: of the Nasdaq composite index, 49.2% of its value is attributed to Internet companies. Not surprising, though more than I would have guessed. The loftier S&P 500 figure is 25.9%. That was surprising!

Fall Internet World '99

I started by picking up my press registration on the fourth floor. I was astounded to see that there was no coffee and pastry layout. The press area was sponsored by Network

continued

Solutions this year (the folks who have been managing Internic, the domain name registration database). I thought they must have gone into space! The one thing you have to do with press people is feed them!

I saw a fellow come out from behind a curtain pushing a cart loaded with cookies. I followed him (they don't call me the cookie monster for nothing!) He pushed the cart into one of the booths reserved for press conferences, in particular, one used by a company called "Storm." I asked the young woman there if I might have a cookie. She said they were all wrapped up, but I could have a muffin or danish. I accepted a danish and asked about their product. They make server side accelerators for companies with a large number of pages running on NT servers. It seems NT is so slow fetching links that it pays to generate faster paths to speed up the process. The problem doesn't exist on UNIX or LINUX servers. *Storm* services a number of companies, Mary Kay Cosmetics being their most successful. Check them out at www.stormsystems.com.

Then down to the main floor. I visited Microsoft to get help with problems I was having using Access to manage the club database. They gave me some pointers, but their help files were useless — what else is new? Then I moved over to the MCI-WorldCom/UUNet display. I chatted with them a while and learned that while they do have a retail ISP offering, they prefer corporate clients. They admitted that they supply the POPs for AT&T's Worldnet, but like to keep that quiet, since it's a wholesale product. I asked them about international access, since Worldnet doesn't have European POPs, despite their name. UUNet has them, but not for Worldnet and they pointed me to Qwest. Qwest owns EUNet, which has POPs all over, but I'm not sure how well integrated they are, given the fractured history of European telecom systems. Their Web sites are not much use in figuring this out. Don't like country boundaries? Your best bet is still AOL/CompuServe!

I headed over to NSI/Internic, where I complained about the food, but the floor folks didn't know about the press area. I chatted with them about the recent donnybrook over their amalgamation of the NSI and Internic Web sites. I guess they have unraveled that attempt to steer access to Internic through NSI and are now being careful to maintain a firewall between the two ventures.

Some members of the ACGNJ board have been looking at ways to keep the club database on our Web site, to avoid problems due to individuals keeping it. I visited Informix, one of the contenders in this area and learned they had just purchased Cloudscape, a Java-based Web database system. I had a chance to speak with one of the officers, who offered us a free copy of the product if we put in for it before the acquisition went through. (We did.)

Then, upstairs to look for Rich Brill and see what other members of the fourth estate were doing about lunch. Lo and behold, the south part of the area was cordoned off — I had thought for a private affair, but it was for press victuals! Had my much-needed sandwich and coffee (no cookies) and was at peace with the world, briefly. Didn't find Rich, nor did I

find any J. P. Davis notes about his evening press event, which I usually attend with Rich.

After my free lunch I headed to the main auditorium to hear Oracle's Larry Ellison give his keynote. (It was available online at www.internet.com/fall99 during the show, but it's gone now.) Ellison was tooting his old horn:

- Client-server has grown in complexity
- Distributed databases reduce accessibility of global info
- Internet based shared applications, data, and servers (Amazon.com.) use NetLedger instead of Quickbooks, Peachtree, etc. (Check out NetLedger at www.netledger.com.)

I said in last month's column I was amazed that amazon.co.uk knew my credit card info. Ellison pointed out that it was co-located in Seattle with amazon.com, amazon.de, etc. Economy of scale led to easier information sharing. (Also, Web-based data, while maybe not convincing for all applications, is certainly going to grow in popularity. Check out www.idrive.com and recall our first look at Free Backup.)

I ambled down to the workshop area and was about to enter the Web Developer's Forum, but what I saw in the program looked too commercial and dull. Next door was "Linux for Suits/Open Source Business Models." with a star cast:

- Esther Dyson - EDventure Holdings and ICANN was Moderator
- Eric Raymond - Open Source Initiative (Our own TCF keynoter!)
- Bob Young - Red Hat Software
- Fernand Sarrat - LinusCare, Inc.
- Ted Schein - Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. (venture capital)
- George Weiss - Gartner Group. (industrial survey)

I was sorry I had missed the morning session because Linus Torvalds was on the program. This session was lively and interesting, with lots of audience interaction. While there were some open source skeptics, they were outnumbered by folks making money on free, open product.

Back to the exhibit floor where I visited Ancestry.com, which I reported on last year. They have grown their online databases considerably and host many thousands of family trees. One problem with public genealogy postings is that there must be privacy protection for the living members of the clan. Ancestry has a new offering, MyFamily.com, which offers controlled access to pages devoted to your family. You, the group initiator, get to control who can access the data. Here are some of the features:

- Calendar
- Family Newsgroup
- Album - Share photos, sounds, and video clips
- Family Tree
- File Cabinet
- Chat - private family chat room
- Address Book

I tried unsuccessfully to con them into freebies for the club. Ancestry has an annual fee, but www.myfamily.com is free.

continued on page 17

Hints for Hiking and Traveling with a GPS

by Cass Lewart

What Is GPS Good For?

A Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, when properly used, will help to guide you to your destination, and will also take you back to where you started. Still, if you really want to be sure that you will not get lost, then in addition to a GPS, you will also need a decent compass, a map and, if you hike in mountainous terrain, an altimeter.

Bearing, Heading and Distance

A GPS, when set to guide you to a specific waypoint (any location on earth), displays navigational information derived from signals received from a constellation of more than 20 satellites in orbits 20,000 km above the earth. This information includes Bearing (direction from your current location to a waypoint in degrees), Heading (direction in which you are traveling in degrees) and distance to waypoint in km or miles.

Although one of the GPS displays includes a compass rose, a GPS is not a compass. Unless you move at 10 miles per hour or faster, the Heading and speed indication and the compass display on the GPS are not reliable. This is why you need a compass when hiking. However, some GPS units, in particular those made by Magellan, in addition to the Sun/Moon rise and set computations, superimpose on the compass rose the current position of the sun, the moon and your destination. Thus if the sun or the moon are visible, and not too high above the horizon, the Magellan GPS will also provide you with a convenient and a fairly accurate compass display.

Magnetic Deviation

Most GPS units let you choose between True and Magnetic North. The magnetic deviation computed by your GPS is, of course, an approximation based on your current position. It may vary by a few degrees from the actual magnetic deviation. Unless you know the exact magnetic deviation for your location, use the one provided by the GPS to coordinate the GPS with the compass readings.

Marking Starting and Intermediate Locations

When traveling or hiking, a GPS lets you easily enter/mark coordinates of your current location usually by pressing a certain key once or twice. Always mark your starting location so you can find your way back after the hike, and also mark intermediate points.

Hiking in the Woods

When you hike under dense foliage your GPS may have difficulty locking on to satellites. In general, once a lock is achieved, it is easier to keep it, even under heavy foliage, than to reacquire the satellites under the same conditions. Try to keep the GPS on while hiking in dense woods. If the satellite lock is lost, try to find a clearing to reacquire satellites.

Traveling or Hiking to a Specific Waypoint

You can follow a route consisting of several waypoints or you can set the GPS to guide you to a specific waypoint. In either case the GPS display will show the distance to the next waypoint and the Bearing to that waypoint. Set your compass to that Bearing and follow the compass by sighting a visible mark (a tree, a hill, etc.). You will not need the compass if you

travel at 10 miles/hour or more because the Heading indicator on the GPS is then reliable. As you walk or travel, the distance to the next waypoint should be getting smaller. If it does not, check your equipment.

Sometimes as you follow a trail or drive on a city street, you know that to get to a specific waypoint you will have to make a turn. The problem is that you don't know exactly when to turn. To find out, watch the Bearing to that waypoint on your GPS and watch your current Heading (on the compass if you walk, on the GPS if you drive). If you are to make a 90 degree turn, as you approach your turning point the Bearing should be approximately 90 degrees less than the Heading for a left turn or 90 degrees more for a right turn. Of course if you straddle the 360 degree mark, you will have to correct for it by adding or subtracting 360. E.g., if your Heading is 10 degrees and you expect to make a 90 degree left turn, then proceed till the Bearing indicator shows $10 - 90 + 360 = 280$ degrees.

Accuracy

Due to "Selective Availability" (a fudge factor introduced by the Defense Department), signal reflections, atmospheric phenomena, number and spatial geometry of visible satellites and the inherent precision of the GPS satellite clocks, there will always be some error in determining your position, speed and altitude from GPS readings. I find my GPS to be accurate to within 0.05 miles most of the time. However, occasionally the error can be as much as 0.25 miles. Take this into account when hiking. The altitude can be off by several hundred feet, which is why you should carry an altimeter.

Talking to Your GPS

You plan your trip by entering a series of waypoints. The coordinates of these waypoints can be obtained from paper or computerized maps, mapping programs or from various databases accessible over the Internet. A specific street address or a landmark will return the latitude and the longitude. Mapping programs and a cable connecting your GPS to a serial port of the computer will let you automatically transfer this information to the GPS. Otherwise you have to enter the coordinates manually one by one. When using manual entry, make sure that angle units are consistent, e.g., ddd.mm.sss (Deg/Min/Sec), ddd.mm.mmm (Deg/Min) or ddd.ddddd (Deg). If necessary, perform the conversion before entering data manually into the GPS (e.g., $72.530 \text{ deg} = 3\text{D } 72 \text{ deg } 31 \text{ min } 48 \text{ sec}$). Make sure you have the correct latitude (North or South) and longitude (West or East). Connecting a GPS to a serial port on a laptop will let you transfer waypoints and routes automatically, and trace your progress on a moving map display on the computer as you travel. The communication and handshaking between the GPS and the computer is controlled by the NMEA 0183 (National Marine Electronics Association) protocols. In general the setup menu on the GPS will give you some choices in selecting the appropriate NMEA protocol and the Baud (bits/sec) transmission rate. The choice is in general between 1,200, 4,800, 9,600 and 19,200 bits/sec. Most mapping programs recommend 4,800

continued on page 14

Free Internet Service Providers

by Sol Libes

Free Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been available in many foreign countries for some time. They are now gaining acceptance here, and new ones are appearing monthly. Most require that you download their TCP/IP dialer software. A few require that you use a special version of browser software. Most work with standard browsers (e.g. Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.). You will have to register and receive a password to access their system. With few exceptions they all work with telephone modems up to 56Kbps.

When To Use a Free ISP

The obvious advantage is that the ISPs listed below are free. If you have an ISP that is limited to a local area and you travel outside that area you may find free services of value. Some people use them even in their local area as adjuncts to their regular ISPs which may have limitations (e.g. AOL) or be very busy and sometimes have access problems.

In addition to this list, there are many free ISPs in Europe and elsewhere, in fact there are several times the number as in the US. If you travel internationally this may be the way to go. See http://www.emailaddresses.com/email_internet.htm for a list of free foreign ISPs.

I have listed below those currently available in the US. More are going into operation monthly (check the URL above to find them). Check the Web sites listed below to see if they have an access number local to you.

Most of these services provide limited technical support in installing their software. A few also provide e-mail or web site hosting. However, I recommend that once you have access to the Web you use a free e-mail service (e.g. Hotmail, Yahoo mail, etc.) or free web site host (e.g. Homestead, Geocities, etc.). There are plenty of them. That way, if you find later that you want to change to another ISP you will not have to change your e-mail address and/or your web site domain name.

The Tradeoffs

Although these ISPs are free, there are often some inconveniences. First of all, most will require that you complete a questionnaire giving information about yourself and your interests. Further, some will log the web sites you visit to gain even more information about you. This is usually so they can tailor their advertising to your interests.

They typically place advertising somewhere on your screen. Some allow you to control where it appears, but they will not permit you to turn it off. If this bothers you, a free ISP is not for you.

Free ISPs can get very busy and you may have problems accessing them during busy times of the day. They may not be as reliable as a connection you pay for. Further, they typically offer support only for installing their dialup software. If you experience problems later their support may be limited to a FAQ page.

The List

These ISPs in the USA were available at the time this article was written in October 1999.

Freei (<http://go.freei.net/www/>) currently offers Web access and e-mail in 50 states, including New Jersey. It may expand to other areas in the near future. It offers all the features and facilities of a normal Internet connection. It works on both Windows 95/98/NT and Macintosh systems. You will have to use Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Freeppp (<http://www.freeppp.com/>) Provides free high speed ISDN connection to the Internet. However, you currently have to dial into a telephone number in the 212 area code.

MicroAV (<http://microav.com/>), is offered by Alta Vista. It places a bar on your screen that displays ads, news and other information. A meter counts down inside the application, and if you don't "interact" with the ads or the other links offered to you within a set time you get disconnected. You must use Windows 95/98.

NetZero (<http://www.netzero.com/>) works with standard browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.) and e-mail software (Outlook Express, Eudora, etc.). This was the first true free ISP in the US. It has the widest coverage in the country and the largest number of users.

NoCharge (<http://www.nocharge.com/>) Service is currently limited to a few areas in Maryland and Washington state. It does not show advertising and you do not have to fill out a questionnaire. You will have to setup the dialer software that comes with your operating system, which may prove tricky. If you need help getting it working there is a \$10 charge for each tech support call. It works with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux/Unix systems. They have a downloadable dialer for Windows 95/98 systems that makes installation easier.

NoPay (<http://www.nopay.net/>) Currently limited to Washington state with plans to go nationwide early in 2000.

Tritium Network (<http://Tritium.net/>) Currently limited to about ten large metropolitan areas across the country, including Philadelphia. They expect to have nationwide access in 2000. Their web site has a demo of how their connection works. Currently, works only with Windows 95/98. ☐

Free Long-Distance Calling?

When considering freebies, don't forget free long-distance service. Our family uses Freeway. Here's how it works: Go to www.broadpoint.com and fill out a questionnaire. In due time your card comes by snail mail (faster if you apply for a credit card when you register). Dial the toll-free number, enter your code, and listen to commercials. Each one gets you a pre-determined number of minutes for your call. Listen to as many as you want, but you must use your minutes on the current call, and you must respond in some way to each commercial. Limited to 2 hours of free calls per month per person, but each adult in household can register.

When your time is almost up, you hear a tone. Say goodbye quickly, because when time is up your call goes dead and you hear a recorded "Thank you for using Freeway".

Barbara DeGroot ☐

How Free Are “Free” Computers?

by Ken Fermoye

Which adage do you believe? “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth” or “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” When it comes to taking advantage of many of those “free” computer offers being hyped recently, you’d better consider the latter.

First came the giveaway offers from Free-PC and clones. They promise a free computer to people who are willing to watch continuous ads. The deals include all sort of restrictions on your Internet activity and require that you agree to answer questionnaires and otherwise give up aspects of your personal privacy.

In a sense, you do pay a price for the “free” computer. You lose a great deal of privacy and have restricted Internet access. Anyone with the slightest trace of paranoia won’t be comfortable with these deals.

Then came free computers from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) like Gobi and Intersquid. They give you a “free” computer in return for a long-term (30 to 36 months) contract for Internet access service at higher-than-normal rates of \$26 to \$30 per month. These rates will really seem excessive in a few years for reasons explained below.

Next we got a spate of partnerships between companies like eMachines, Compaq, large electronic retailers and various ISPs or online services such as CompuServe and Prodigy (which are not true ISPs).

Most of the latter offers don’t give you a free computer after all. Many are like the one Circuit City and Fry’s chains have been promoting in partnership with CompuServe. Staples has a similar tie-in with MSN (Microsoft Network). Mac fans also are being wooed with offers of “free” iMacs; more on that later. They offer rebates, usually \$400.

The Fry’s deal is typical. It includes a \$400 rebate on a \$499 “eMachines/Compaq” computer with 366 Cyrix MII MMX-enhanced processor, 64MB of SD RAM, 4.3GB Ultra DMA hard drive, 56Kbps modem, but no monitor. It’s a decent, low-end, entry-level home computer. You pay \$499 up front and wait for the \$99 rebate “within 45 days of credit approval from eMachines/Compaq/CompuServe Internet Service.”

Ah, but the cost doesn’t stop there. Part of the deal is that you must sign a “contract commitment to a 36-month subscription for CompuServe 2000 Internet Service at a monthly rate of \$21.95.” Therein lies the rub. (You didn’t really think that Steve Case, honcho of AOL, which owns CompuServe, would really play Santa Claus, did you? Not blooming likely!)

That monthly cost is 10-20% over the going rates (currently running from \$17.95 to \$19.95) The kicker is that \$21.95 may be double, even quadruple, what industry analysts and other experts project Internet access to cost in the not-too-distant future! Some predict monthly access fees may go as low as \$5 within a few years, as reported in the Los Angeles Times during July. Why? There are several reasons.

1. Telephone and Internet gurus report that competitive effects of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 are finally beginning to appear. We have already seen

long-distance drop substantially, to as low as 5 cents per minute in some cases (and totally free if you go to dialpad.com). This ultimately means lower costs for Internet Service Providers.

2. Broadband technologies that offer fast Internet access are beginning to show significant growth. More users will turn to DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and cable access as they become available. DSL and cable not only offer fast access, the “always-connected” benefit and simultaneous multi-user capability, but they can be very competitive in cost with dial-up access. This is especially true for users who have a second phone line, dedicated to modem use, because that line can be dropped if you get DSL or cable.

So if you sign a 3-year contract for Internet access at \$20 or \$22 per month and access rates drop to \$10 or \$12 in 8, 10 or 24 months, your “free” computer won’t be so free after all. And don’t think you can terminate your service contract early to take advantage of lower rates. Read the fine print. The CompuServe contract “requires repayment of \$400 rebate plus a \$50 cancellation fee” for early termination.

As Bank of America Securities analyst Kurtis King commented in an L.A. Times Business Section article (July 3), “These contracts are pretty onerous. There’s nothing free about the offers.”

(Author’s Note: Just as I was finishing this article I received an offer of Internet access through MSN, the Microsoft Network, at \$11.99 per month. The deal is available through Costco, a large membership retailer, and requires a 3-month prepayment (\$35.97) but no long-term contract. Take this as an omen of things to come!)

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FTC, States Eye Freebie Deals

August 23, 1999 — The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and attorneys general of Florida and New York report that popular “free computer” marketing tactics raise concerns about “full disclosure” of contract terms. No formal investigations appear to be underway at present, but do not seem to have been ruled out. Meanwhile, the state and federal watchdogs urge consumers to “read the fine print,” and think carefully about committing themselves to 3-year ISP contracts. “Three years from now, this kind of modem-based access may be obsolete,” pointed out Sonia Sanchez, spokesperson for the New York attorney general’s office. ☐

What You Should Know About Windows 9x Registry

by Vic Laurie, PPCUG

Much has been written about the Registry from the point of view of the power user, but the subject often seems so obscure and arcane that the typical user takes the path of least resistance and remains ignorant of even the most basic facts of the Registry. This is unfortunate since there are some things that are easily learned and can be very helpful in keeping a system in good order. I will address the Registry sticking to the aspects which are of practical use to an average user.

What do you need to know about the Registry?

Editing the Registry is not typically an activity of most users. However, it is important to know how to back up the Registry and how to restore a damaged or corrupted Registry should the need arise. A little learning here can save big headaches. The backup/restore process is neither difficult nor lengthy (especially for Win98) and is easily mastered by the greenest of neophytes. Just a little knowledge will make the Registry seem less like some cabalistic ritual of Druid priests and remove some of the fear and loathing from the subject.

What is the Registry?

The registry is a central database containing all the varied information needed for the computer to run both the hardware and the software. Information is divided between two hidden, system, read-only files, *System.dat* and *User.dat*, which are located in the \Windows\ folder. Division into two files allows flexibility in multi-user environments. User-specific information (logon names, desktop settings, **Start** menu settings, etc.) is kept in *User.dat*. If there is more than one user, each can have his/her version of *User.dat*. Hardware-specific and computer-specific settings are contained in *System.dat*. It contains hardware configurations, Plug and Play settings, application settings, etc. It is much the larger of the two files and on a Win98 system with Internet Explorer 4/5 may be 5MB or larger. On a basic Win95 system without Internet Explorer, it may be less than 1MB.

Backing Up and Restoring the Registry in Windows 95

Windows 95 makes a feeble attempt at automatic backup by creating *system.da0* and *user.da0* files after every successful boot-up (note that the extension is *daZero*). These are copies of the last successful version of *system.dat* and *user.dat*. This stopgap measure is better than nothing and has saved my bacon once or twice, but it is too easy for errors to creep in. Windows 95 also came (if you knew where to look) with two accessories for Registry backup, CFGBACK and ERU, but both suffer from problems and I do not recommend them. There are also innumerable shareware programs that offer to do backups. Don't waste money on them. The canonical way to back up that is in all the literature involves booting to Command Prompt Only and doing DOS. For completeness, I will include this method here, but unless you are on a network it isn't necessary to go to DOS, a procedure which may be more traumatic for many people than it is worth (the average user seems to suffer from DOSophobia.) Old DOS hands can write a batch file that makes it all very easy, of course, but I will skip that.

Here is the standard DOS backup procedure: Boot to "Command prompt only" (**not a DOS box**), and enter the following. (I am using upper case but that is not necessary):

```
CD WINDOWS
ATTRIB -H -S -R SYSTEM.DAT
ATTRIB -H -S -R USER.DAT
COPY SYSTEM.DAT SYSTEM.BAK
COPY USER.DAT USER.BAK
ATTRIB +H +S +R SYSTEM.DAT
ATTRIB +H +S +R USER.DAT
```

This places the backups in the Windows folder along with the original registry files. If you wish to back up to another folder or a ZIP disk or other external medium as well (wise) insert the appropriate destination.

Why go to DOS? To make absolutely sure that nothing will try to access the Registry while it is being copied. However, if you are careful to have nothing else running (including things like screensavers) you can simply copy the two Registry files from within Windows Explorer (with Show All Files enabled) the same way you would copy any file. I have used this procedure many times. Nothing could be simpler. (These copies will have the hidden system attributes; which must be removed if the files are ever needed in a DOS procedure.)

How often is backup needed? In principle those who do not make changes in settings and do not install new software need only one healthy backup with the *da0* files serving as a second tier. In practice, making backups a week apart and keeping them in different places isn't a bad idea. If you make frequent changes to your system, frequent backups are called for. Always back up before trying a new component or software.

Registry backups are a form of insurance. Just as you purchase fire insurance for your home without expecting it to burn down, make backups even if you never expect to trash the Registry. Many users go through life with nary a whimper of trouble. (One way to help keep out of trouble is regular housecleaning, which is discussed below.)

However, suppose the dreaded day arrives, you get one of the infamous corrupt Registry error messages and your machine refuses to open in Windows. What then? For purposes of illustration, I will assume the backups are also in the Windows folder. For other paths make appropriate substitutions. Assuming you are getting a C:\ prompt (if not, there is a whole other procedure involving a boot disk which I won't discuss here) enter the following DOS commands to replace the corrupt Registry files with backup copies:

```
CD WINDOWS
ATTRIB -H -S -R SYSTEM.DAT
ATTRIB -H -S -R USER.DAT
DEL SYSTEM.DAT
DEL USER.DAT
COPY SYSTEM.BAK SYSTEM.DAT
COPY USER.BAK USER.DAT
```

continued

```
ATTRIB +H +S +R SYSTEM.DAT
```

```
ATTRIB +H +S +R USER.DAT
```

Restoring the attributes in the last two steps is to ensure proper functioning of the system. (Incidentally, bad RAM or hard disk problems can also lead to corrupt Registry error messages. Repeated problems with Registry errors may actually be a hardware problem.)

Backing Up and Restoring the Registry in Windows 98

Win98 is a piece of cake compared to Win95 since one of the best improvements Microsoft made in Win98 was to add new system utilities. One of these is called the Registry Checker, which backs up the Registry automatically and restores it if needed. The da0 files are superfluous and are no longer created. Below are excerpts from the Microsoft Windows 98 Resource Kit explaining the whole process.

“Registry Checker is a system maintenance program that finds and fixes registry problems. Each time you start your computer, Registry Checker automatically scans the registry for inconsistent structures, and if no problem is found, Registry Checker makes one backup for each day. Registry Checker consists of two executable files, Scanreg.exe and Scanregw.exe, which are automatically copied to the \Windows\Command and \Windows folders, respectively, when Windows 98 is installed. If a problem is found in the registry, Registry Checker can restore the registry from a good backup copy. Registry Checker maintains five compressed backups of the registry that have successfully started the computer. Registry Checker attempts to fix the registry if a backup cannot be found. Registry Checker also removes unused space in the registry, reducing the size of the registry file, and therefore improving performance. Once per day at startup a new CAB file containing a backup of the registry is created by Registry Checker. The file name is Rbxxx.cab (where xxx is a unique number assigned when the file is created). The new file replaces the oldest file. These files are located in the \Windows\Sysbckup folder (a hidden folder). Registry Checker always maintains *at least* the last configuration from which the system was successfully booted.”

Also from the Microsoft Resource Kit: “To manually back up the registry using Registry Checker

On the **Start** menu, click **Run**.

Type **scanregw.exe**, and click **OK**.

First Registry Checker verifies that the registry is structurally sound. If the registry is sound, Registry Checker offers to back it up. Registry Checker will back up the registry and store the compressed CAB file in \Windows\Sysbckup (a hidden directory).”

And finally: “To restore the backup manually”

On the **Start** menu, click **Shut Down**.

Select **Restart in MS-DOS mode** and click **OK**.

At the MS-DOS command prompt, type scanreg /restore.

Select the latest known good backup.

Backed up, compressed registry files are listed with the name *Rbxxx.cab*. The files show the time and date of backup.”

In addition to whatever backups are made by scanreg, you can make copies of *System.dat* and *User.dat* through Win-

dows Explorer as was explained in the Win95 section above. These will not be in compressed CAB format and can be used directly.

Cleaning the Registry

The Registry is in dynamic flux; programs continually access it to obtain and add information. Often obsolete entries are left behind and over time the Registry will grow in size as it accretes outdated stuff. If programs are installed and removed, residues are left behind because of the inefficiencies of uninstaller programs. If the Registry collects too much rubbish, it may slow the system or become less stable. Various programs exist to clean the Registry (always back up before using any of them). A free one (Regclean) is available at <ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/Softlib/MSLFILES/REGCLEAN.EXE>. There were some reported problems with older versions but I have used this version, 4.1a Build 7364.1, without trouble. This utility is only a partial cleaner and does not get many things, but I use it regularly. It creates an Undo file so that your previous Registry can be restored if you choose. Another free program I have used with good success is called Easy Cleaner. It can be found on a number of sites including the author’s homepage (<http://www.saunalahti.fi/tonihele/>). It seems to do a good job, is fast, and is recommended by many Websites, but I point out (for what it’s worth) that the author is a 15 year old Finnish kid. Back up before you use it.

If you want to pay for something, there are a host of utilities with Registry cleaners. None I have used clean much better than the kid’s freebie but they have more bells and whistles. They can back up what they clean and are quite useful when uninstalling software. They remove stuff the program uninstallers miss. I have used CleanSweep, but you should keep a close eye on what it wants to clean out. It always shows you first what it might do, but sometimes wants to throw out stuff it shouldn’t. Older versions have trouble with Win98. Now that Symantec has bought it and added it to Norton Utilities, I am not sure what the latest version is like. The really diligent and fearless can clean by hand using a registry editor.

Editing the Registry

Average users will probably do this as often as they bungee jump, but some of us are inveterate tinkerers and like to get to the core of things. Windows 9X comes with a utility called Regedit. It is not listed in the Programs menu but is in the Windows folder as *Regedit.exe*. There are also help files. The easiest way to use it is to open the **Run** menu and enter “regedit” (without quotes). One serious drawback is its lack of an “undo” function. Editing cannot be reversed. More flexible editors are available in programs like Norton Utilities.

For the more circumspect, there are safer ways of editing the Registry. The *TweakUI* utility is an interface for easily making Registry changes which I have recommended many times. Go to www.winmag.com/win95/software.htm for the Win95 version or www.winmag.com/win98/software.htm for Win98. Another free utility which is quite useful is *X-Setup 5.0*. It is available at <http://www.xteq.com/main.html>.

Disclaimer: Everything mentioned here works on my and other computers but Windows systems can be highly idiosyncratic so your results may differ. ☐

Dreamweaver 2

by Ibo Akyol

You can build and manage great looking Web sites with Macromedia's Dreamweaver 2 (\$299 list, \$129 upgrade), a top-notch Web page creation tool. Easy drag-and-drop design and exceptional table support will help you build great looking sites in record time. One of its special features is Roundtrip HTML between visual and source editing for fast creation of great looking, cross browser Web sites. Roundtrip HTML provides real-time visual feedback on how a change in the source of a page will show up in a Browser.

Dreamweaver 2 has the standard features you would expect from a company like Macromedia: built in FTP, Link checking, Preview (in multiple browsers), Rulers and Grids for the work area, support for XML, unlimited undo, estimates of loading time and more. For rollover lovers, Dreamweaver 2 will allow you to easily add a rollover in just two or three clicks by just selecting the files. This is a real timesaver.

I really liked the excellent site management features. For example, using the site map (which can be printed) you can change the location or name of any file on your site, and all the links site-wide are automatically updated. It also integrates a Search/Replace function so you can modify HTML snippets site-wide quickly and easily, a feature I found very useful. The powerful site-management features of Dreamweaver 2 make it the best WYSIWYG editor to work on medium and large web sites. Features such as site mapping, link-checking and automatic updating of files are integrated seamlessly into the editor.

You create pages in the *WYSIWYG* design window by dragging images, tables, and other page components from the floating Object Palette and accessing the internal HTML Editor, style sheet libraries, and other palettes from the floating Launcher Window. Linking is handled from the property browser, which maintains content-specific data about each design element.

Dreamweaver's site mapping features allow you to interact with a navigational view of your site for quick site design and reorganization. You can quickly storyboard new sites and create new files directly in the map with just one click, and assign links by dragging and dropping to files and images in your site. You can control the layout, look, orientation (horizontal or vertical), and the zoom level of the map to select exactly the slice of the site with which you want to interact.

Dreamweaver 2 is wonderfully and easily extensible. You can make custom objects, behaviors, commands, inspectors, and more. Dreamweaver 2, unlike most *WYSIWYG* editors, preserves your code without restructuring it, and it doesn't add unnecessary or proprietary tags.

Dreamweaver 2 has table-editing features that allow rapid selection of cells, rows, columns, and discontinuous selections. You can control the content, background image, layout, and styles of table cells with one mouse click. You can sort and format tables as quickly as in Word or Excel.

continued

One E-Mail Address

by Paul Shapiro, CPCUG

Having just one e-mail address is nice. That's what I thought when I saw a fee-based service offering a unique address that follows you around forever, as long as you pay the fee. There is a better way, and it is available for free download <http://ilnet@ddress.com/>. The neat thing about it is that all mail from your newly selected e-mail address can be forwarded to your present account, whatever, wherever. Whenever you change your e-mail domain (such as from Erols or AOL to cpcug.org), all you need do is return to this site and change the forwarding address. No need to tell all of your e-mail pals and correspondents.

The only requirement is that you apply for an e-mail address with domain name *usa.net*. You are provided with a list of choices available for your username, the part that precedes the "@" sign in all e-mail addresses. Based on a sample of just one, I suspect the username can be selected from a variety of permutations of your first and last name. I was able to use my name without alteration. Others who come after me with the same name will need a variation or perhaps a mixture of uppercase and lowercase letters.

E-mail packages like Eudora permit one to include as the return address the *usa.net* address, which is what recipients will see on the FROM line of their mail, even though your current provider e-mail address is the origin. All mail addressed to the new address will be forwarded to you without apparent delay, e-mail being the service that it is.

Of course, if you want people to know you have changed your address, forget what you have just read. You may want to make a big deal of the fact that you are upgrading your Internet service to cpcug.org and are no longer hobbled by that irritating service whose contract finally expired.

The *usa.net* address is so easy to remember, particularly important when trying to get others to contact you. My new address is really easy: *paul.shapiro@usa.net*. Let me know for the last time what yours is when you change. When contacting me, just remember to use lowercase, otherwise I may hear from a namesake on the other side of the world who objects to the intrusions. ☹

Dreamweaver, *continued*

I loved the features of this tool, the ease of use, and the professional results. I highly recommend this product for every designer of web sites, professional or not.

You can download the 30-day trial program at <http://www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/trial/>.

System Requirements — **Win 95/98/NT:** Intel Pentium processor or equivalent 90+ MHz, Windows 95/98 or NT version 4.0 or later, 32 MB RAM, 20 MB disk space, 256-color monitor capable of 800x600 resolution, and CD-ROM drive. **Macintosh:** Power Macintosh, OS 7.5.5 or later, 24 MB available RAM, 20 MB disk space, Color monitor capable of 800x600 resolution, and CD-ROM drive. ☹

The C++ Standard Library

A Tutorial and Reference

Book Review by Bruce Arnold

This 800-page hard cover book contains the latest information on the C++ language. A new standard was released in 1998 by the International Standards Organization (ISO) and by ANSI in the United States. Part of the Standard is the “Standard Library” which contains tools and functions for I/O, strings, data structures, algorithms, and other features. I believe that the book is appropriate for intermediate and advanced C++ users.

The first 72 pages of the book provide a general introduction to the new features of the language: namespace, header files, utilities, and simple functions.

The heart of the “Standard Library” is the “Standard Template Library” (STL). The author devotes the middle third (350 pages) of the book to this area. This includes dynamic arrays, linked lists, binary trees and search algorithms.


The final chapters of the book discuss other areas of importance: special containers, strings, numerics, stream classes, allocators and international features. An accompanying Web site, including source code, can be found at <http://www.josuttis.com/libbook/>.

I found this book quite readable. It was almost like reading a novel. The author discusses the foundations of the different concepts before jumping into detail. By discussing the evolution of the language, the concepts appear more logical. Whereas in other books you may spend an hour studying a single page of terse information, the author seems to be able to anticipate your hesitation and confusion and fills in the missing elements even before you question them.

At each stage of his presentation, he presents examples of the topic. Some of the examples are only 5 or 6 lines long. He then builds on the previous examples and then adds code to provide more detail. The examples are not code fragments but are full programs. When I typed some of them into VC++ 5.0 they actually worked! (Many times I have tried this with other books only to find that the author had left out critical elements so that the programs would not compile.)

I recommend this book for intermediate and advanced C++ programmers. They will need to be generally familiar with “class” concepts, inheritance, templates and exception handling. The book will pick up specifics and details and will provide a smooth learning curve for further expertise.

Author: Nicolai M. Josuttis

Publisher: Addison Wesley Longman 

Government Interference Threatens (Again)

by John Raff

The modem tax myth may be for real — it may no longer just be an urban legend. The FCC will re-examine whether ISPs should pay a per-minute fee for connecting to the local telephone network. Experience has proved that government interference in free trade causes hardship for those who can least afford it, (us), but they seem to be about to try it again anyway.

In a previous attempt to level the playing field, one communications company (Western Union) was totally destroyed. Now big business is once again crying to the government to rescue them from their antiquated technology and business practices. Bell Atlantic and others want the FCC to tax modem connections to the Internet, crying foul because their long-distance tolls are shrinking.

Big business may come crying to government begging for taxes and charge-backs to cover for their antiquated technologies and business practices, but it should not be up to the government to rescue them — they should be directed to put their research bucks where they count most. Antiquated technology should not be subsidized just because it belongs to big business. Give them a loan if necessary, and tell them to upgrade and bring their company into the 21st century the way Chrysler did.

Bell and the others should see the light and quit belly aching. Technology has passed them by because they allowed it to do so. They have been researching communications for a long while — ISDN was invented back in the 50s, but only last year did they offer it to us. Now that the Internet and Cable can provide similar service they have finally taken off their blinders and are offering DSL — too little too late. They need to be told to upgrade their technologies and lower their rates before Cable, Satellite and the Internet totally overtake their cash cow. Now that we have almost unlimited broadband access, they want to tax users for access to services they failed to provide.

For those who don't know the history, until Congress mandated that communication companies could not get into business with computers, Western Union was bigger than ATT. Congress put on the stops and Western Union, the first commercial satellite vendor (remember Telstar?), went into the toilet. The company morphed into New Valley (in Upper Saddle River), but even New Valley doesn't exist any more.

Government mandated the use of the DES chip and technology, and for the past 4 years we (U.S.) have not been able to compete in the burgeoning encryption market.

continued on page 13

Streaming Video — The Next Killer App?

by Sol Libes

The next biggest thing on the World Wide Web is predicted to be “Streaming Video.” Will it replace television, or at the very least merge with it in some way? It is still in early development. In the meantime, there are several streaming video sites on the web for users to check out.

Streaming Video Lectures on the Web

An excellent Streaming Video example can be found at (<http://www.princeton.edu/WebMedia>), the Princeton University WebMedia site. On it you will find lectures that have been given by individuals prominent in their fields. For example, I recently viewed a series of three lectures given by Andrew Knoll, from Harvard University, titled “Reconstructing the Early History of Life on Earth” in which he traced the earliest living creatures on earth going back several hundred million years ago. Each lecture was over an hour long. In addition to previously recorded stuff, you can listen to scheduled Princeton University multicast concerts and sports events.

How would you like to view lectures given at the The Royal Institute of Technology, in Kista Sweden? If so, go to <http://www.it.kth.se/misc/events/Lecture-series.html>. Want to watch a surgical procedure at a hospital in England? See <http://gasnet.dundee.ac.uk/sata/announce/messages/5.html>. Want to go the place that created the first WYSIWYG Web Browser (Mosaic), National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, to see, in action, the projects they are working on? Then go to <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/MEDIA/vidlib/new.html>. View NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) streaming videos at <http://www.broadcast.noaa.gov/>. This is just a small sampling of educational videos that are available on the web. Do a search on “streaming video” and you will discover a lot more.

Watching Movies On-line

If you want to watch a full-length movie, many are already available on the web. You don’t have to go to video store. You can watch them at the NetMovieMania site (http://www.kkrs.net/netmoviemaniahome/MOVIE_page.html), where you will find nearly 200 movies and all free! A few nights ago I went to the Comedy section and watched “His Girl Friday,” a classic movie starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

Interested in going out to a real movie theatre and want to check out the movies first? Then go to Moviefone (<http://www.moviefone.com/>) where you can view the trailers for every movie currently in the theatres. These are the exact same trailers that are shown in the theatres.

How to Watch Streaming Video

Watching streaming video requires that you are connected to the Internet via at least a 28.8Kbps connection. Of course, a faster connection will improve performance. Use either a Windows 3.1, 95, 98, NT, or Macintosh computer. You will need a browser (Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.) and a streaming video plug-in for the browser. Currently, most streaming videos require either Apple’s Quick Time, RealPlayer G2, or Microsoft’s Windows Media Player. All

are free plug-ins and can be downloaded from the web. Most of the streaming video sites have links to the download sites.

When you click on a link to a streaming video file, the plug-in starts working and loads the first part of the media file to be viewed. A viewing screen will appear along with some VCR-like controls. It may take a little time for the first part of the video to come across to your system. As you view it, the next part will be downloading in the background, be uncompressed, and passed to the viewer creating a continuous viewing experience. Hence, the term “streaming.”

If you have a very slow connection to your ISP, or if things are very busy on the Internet, there may be some noticeable interruptions as each segment is transferred. I have a cable connection and I noticed that during normal working hours there was some jerkiness when I was watching a video from a distant web server that is very busy.

Streaming video is still in early development and I expect it will improve. The audio quality is very good. I would rate the video quality as “not bad.” The video quality does not compare to going to the live lecture, or watching a movie in the theatre, or viewing a video tape or CD. But then again, it is free and very convenient. You can watch the event or movie any time you want and it sure beats travelling to the event.

I have no doubt that our children, or grandchildren, will soon be getting much of their formal education at home, from the best teachers available in locations on the other side of the globe, via the internet. ☐

Kodak/Lexmark PC-free Digital Photography

Kodak and Lexmark claim digital camera customers will benefit from a new relationship between the two firms. They promise higher quality, easier to use and more affordable digital photography output from a long-term co-development and marketing relationship announced in the 4th quarter, 1999.

As proof, they point to their first joint effort, the Kodak Personal Picture Maker by Lexmark, a \$149 printer (estimated street price) that allows digital camera users to crop, personalize, print or store photos without using a PC. Lexmark’s earlier effort at what it calls “appliance printing” was the Lexmark Photo Jetprinter 5770, the world’s first non-PC-attached digital photo printer, introduced in 1998.

The new Lexmark and Kodak alliance, along with the co-branded products resulting from the alliance, will further advance PC-free digital photography so that it comes even closer to providing photo-realistic prints, executives from both companies agree.

For more information, readers can surf to the Kodak website at www.kodak.com or to Lexmark’s site, www.lexmark.com.

A Ken’s Korner TidByte ☐

A Y2K Solution for Old Computers

by Lewis A. Edge, Jr. (lewis@edgeassoc.com)

“The Millennium Bug!” What do you do about it if you have an old computer that works fine and is doing its job — throw it away? There are many applications, such as routers and voice mail systems that don’t need all the speed and power now available. If you’re running DOS applications, many of them will not display graphics on modern 3D video boards that are optimized for Windows.

Seemingly endless “hand wringing” articles have been written about the problem. Fortunately there are several companies offering solutions for PC’s with out-of-date BIOS. A group of simple, thorough tests for Y2K hardware compatibility are available for **free** download from www.securenet.org. Your software will **not** be tested.

To my knowledge, SecureNet is the only organization that offers a software fix for the Y2K problem that works in both DOS and Windows. For about \$30, Securenet will send you a 3½" floppy with the program on it. I evaluated it, but returned to the vendor for credit because of some “features” I did not like. The program must be installed onto a PC only from the original non-write-protected program disk, which cannot be backed up. Once the program is installed on your PC, it cannot be installed again. So if your hard drive crashes (a likely possibility with an old computer), and has to be reformatted or replaced, you will no longer be Y2K compliant.

Although SecureNet claims that they will replace the floppy in the event of a hard drive crash, I did not want to take that chance. Also I **hate** software that cannot be backed up or reinstalled and, as a matter of principle, I refuse to knowingly buy it. Software companies come and go and even the big, well-established ones discontinue support.

Our office’s old 286 voice mail computer runs 24 hours a day and is still working great. I was not sure that I could successfully transfer the software, voice processing card and software lock to a new, modern Pentium class computer. Most of my voice mail computer’s work is done by the voice processing card, so even its slow 286 CPU just loafs along. There would be no performance benefit from replacing the motherboard and hard drive. The vendor who sold us our voice mail system generously offered to upgrade it for just \$3,000, which I had not budgeted. I did know, however, that if the voice mail system’s clock rolled over to 1900 at the end of this year, it would purge all messages because they would appear to be more than 30-days old.

In searching for another solution, I found a product from Evergreen Technologies (www.everttech.com) called, “Fix Y2K Year 2000 Upgrade”. It’s a board that sells for \$39.95 + S&H and plugs into an empty ISA slot on any 286, 386, 486 or Pentium® computer. It updates the computer’s BIOS to be Y2K compliant for at least ten years. I found other boards that sell for more, but this one appeared to be able to do the job.

Evergreen also has a free Y2K hardware testing program on its Web site. The test would not run on my old 286 computer, but it tested my 486 and Pentium class computers just fine. Shopping around, I found that most of the major mail-order companies had the Evergreen product in stock, but their

prices are no better than buying it directly from Evergreen’s Web site, so I bought mine directly.

About three business days after ordering, my Y2K solution arrived. I shut down the voice mail computer, removed the cover, installed the board in an ISA slot, replaced the cover and turned the computer back on. On boot-up, the computer showed a screen message that its BIOS had been updated. I ran the SecureNet test and, voila, the computer passed all of its comprehensive tests. Not believing anything could be so simple, I then reset the computer’s date for 12-31-1999 and the time for 23:59:50 and watched the clock roll over properly to the year 2000. Seeing is believing. For slightly more than 40 bucks and less than five minutes of work, I postponed a \$3,000 computer upgrade indefinitely.

Lewis A. Edge, Jr. is President, Lewis Edge & Associates, Inc., Princeton, NJ and a member of Princeton PC Users Group. ☐

E-mail Tip

Problem: You need to find out if your e-mail system can handle HTML messages.

Solution: Most e-mail programs now have HTML capabilities, although some corporate mail systems block or interfere with the special codes in HTML messages. One way to test your system is to get someone with a working HTML e-mail program to send you a message in HTML. If that’s not convenient, send a blank e-mail to testHTML@wopr.com, and you’ll get an automatic reply with a fully formatted HTML message. If the message doesn’t include colors and a picture, check your mail setup and try again.

Undocumented Tip of the Day from PC Computing ☐

Gov’t. Interference, *continued from page 11*

On the other hand, ATT knew in the late 70s that a break up was coming. In 1983, the Government made official what everyone knew: ATT was too big and monopolistic to run efficiently. MCI fought them for long distance business and won because of technologically better equipment and better planning. Now we have many carriers, all handling terabytes of data every minute, and technology is still forcing the prices down on communications. Remember how very expensive it once was to call long distance anywhere in the US? Now it costs a nickel a minute and rates are still dropping. Care to guess what the real cost is? No wonder ATT got fat over the years. That cash cow has been put on a diet and the grass is definitely greener (faster/cheaper).

Now BOCs want subsidies for their old technology. I say government should keep their sticky pork barrel fingers out of business — almost no one wins when government regulates technology. We benefit from competition, and we suffer when competition is stifled by subsidies for failing practices which should be allowed to fail. ☐

D'Ultimate Counselor

by Walter D'Ull

They'll get you every time — just when you were satisfied, that everything was going well, and you could concentrate on your work and not on upgrades, the stakes are raised, prices cut, accessories multiplied, and hardware improved. You are back on square one, and it's time to buy a new computer.

What chip? Intel Celeron 400 seems like a neat compromise between cost and power. RAM is cheap, but you need 64 megs at least, and 128 is now recommended.

Hard drive? At least 4 gigabytes, preferably 12. Floppy drive? DVD, version 3, for sure, preferably one you can write as well as read. Scanner? Visioneer is all you need. Printer? Color by Epson or HP. Headset and speakers, certainly.

Connectors, UBS of course. **Software,** the latest Norton from Symantec, WordPerfect 9 with Dragon Dictate continuous speech. MS Office for Excel, and some fancy version of Quicken by Intuit. **Monitor?** You might as well throw out the one you have and get a flat screen, flat not merely on the front, like you've seen, but in back as well.

Books: Look at Peachpit Press: The Little Windows 98 Book for Normies. Windows 98 Visual Quickstart for novices, and Windows98 Bible for true nerds.

Not considered here, but vital are Internet, browsers and drawing programs, which I will review first chance I get. ☞

GPS, continued from page 5

bits/sec. Other serial transmission parameters on the computer should be set to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity and no flow control. Make sure that both the GPS and your computer serial communication parameters are set to the same values and that the cable is connected to the COM port used by the terminal emulation or mapping software. Most GPS give a choice of the following NMEA 0183 protocols: NMEA Off, V1.5 APA, V1.5 XTE, and V2.1 GSA.

When a NMEA protocol is selected, the GPS sends an ASCII string describing its position, speed and satellite information to the computer every few seconds. Most mapping programs require the V2.1 GSA protocol. If you are "conversing" with the GPS directly by means of a terminal emulation program, NMEA should be turned off. Otherwise responses from the GPS to direct commands will be interspersed with position and satellite data.

GPS manufacturers have private sets of commands registered with NMEA. For example, Magellan precedes each command with "\$PMGN". All NMEA commands start with "\$". "PMGN" stands for "Private MaGellaN". Each command ends with an asterisk and a checksum (byte-wise XOR excluding "\$" and "*"). To find out about codes for specific GPS and to be able to "converse" with the GPS directly, contact your GPS manufacturer. ☞

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.

Please come join us at the meeting! ☞

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)

SIG News

PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head (tinrock@aol.com)

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

November 19: Microsoft's Windows 2000 PreLaunch Road Tour. We will meet at Hill Center, Room 114, Rutgers Busch Campus in Piscataway. There will be giveaways galore. Compaq co-sponsors with Microsoft. See the details on page 17. Directions to Rutgers are available on the Web at:

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

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@injersey.com)

November: Celestial Automation will be presented by the director of the Hunterdon College Planetarium.

December: Oscar Granison of Granison Video Productions will speak and demo linear and nonlinear 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 Production a very successful business. ☐

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. ☐

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

(Preparing for MS Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

Wednesdays from 7:00PM to 10:00PM except for the 4th Wed of each month. We review typical exam questions. Those who attend are expected to bring a PC properly configured with: NT, 10BaseT network card, and NetMeeting 2.1. Most of us have the 4-volume set of Exam Cram books. We do not teach NT but help prepare for the exam. Meetings are hands on and everyone is expected to participate. ☐

November 1999

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

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

October: The topic was "When to Sell a Stock". We discussed several ways to determine when to sell an equity. The primary focus was on techniques that increase profits. Attendees learned how to increase profits by selling at the right time. How these techniques could be changed to suit stocks of different characteristics was discussed by all there.

We covered the use of trend lines and moving averages. The most important technique suggested covered how to establish a selling price that both cut losses short while increasing the chance of making a substantial profit.

If you are interested in the details of the techniques discussed, take a look at 10-14-99 handout on our Web page. (This will take a while to download, but is worth the wait. You can print this 14-17 page document best using Netscape Navigator) — and you can print in color. (The handouts were black and white.) Color makes the charts easier to read. You can view the Power Point presentation at 10-14-99 Presentation. (Note: this is best viewed using Microsoft Internet Explorer.) ☐

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

<http://www.njlnug.org>

To all those who attempted to attend our October meeting (and found a notice indicating that there was no meeting), I apologize. It seems the offices of Corporate Software and Technology in Iselin (where we have been holding our meetings for the last 5 years since we started the group) closed down last week (and nobody told *me* about it), so when I got there there was no meeting place. The offices were being gutted as I attempted to walk in!!! I will have a new page up on our Web site soon explaining this.

Future meetings will be held at the offices of Bright Ideas Software in Edison (the company I currently work for). You'll find directions on our Web page.

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>. ☐

Main Meeting

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

November: Bill Machrone on a topic of his choice. Host is Marty Rosenblum.

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

continued

Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Peter Fillingham (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)

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)

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. ☞

Genealogy

Frank Warren (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. Subscription requests should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com and include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☞

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. ☞

C/C++ Users Group

Bruce Arnold (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.

The program uses the standard Windows 32-bit API, application programming language interface. Although I have tried it with Microsoft Visual C++ version 5 it will probably compile using any compiler. An additional feature will resize in the window to scale it to the available video space.

The biggest challenge for this program was to create a application program window which was non-obtrusive. There is no window. The only evidence of the program is a small icon which is typically near the clock on the lower right hand corner of the screen. As usual, the code is available at <http://www.blast.net/barnold/Csig9910.htm> ☞

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

October 4: Sadly, Rodney Harrison, proprietor of Alexis' Place, Newark's first cyber café, was unable to make our meeting due to an illness on his staff. There was plenty to occupy us, however. In addition to Web news, which was cut down to the arrival of Netscape 4.7 and AOL 5.0, I had just returned from Internet World 99, and the rest of the meeting was spent reviewing the high points. (See the Internet Corner for the details.)

November 4: I'll check with Harrison again to see if he can make this meeting. In any case, we'll try to get back to the omitted e-commerce discussion. I've also done some information gathering on the ICANN wars, and hope to tell you more about them and whether we should be interested. Once again, if you're a newbie or want to bring one along, we'll do newbie stuff at 7:30. ☞

Next I visited with AOL/Netscape and picked up 3 copies of NS 4.61 on CDROM and 5 copies of AOL 5.0. Then, while wandering around the floor, I came upon a couple of poor souls in clown costumes advertising J. P. Davis Internet:press (www.jpDavis.com), which solved my dinner problem and gave me a cozier meeting with reps of:

- LapLink2000 www.laplink.com/products/ll2k
- Comedyaudio.com www.comedyaudio.com
- Modem Wizard (speed up your modem, automatically + Free NetMonitor) www.kissco.com/
- Searchbutton (let your visitors find what they really want) www.searchbutton.com
- Hypermart (Free business hosting) www.hypermart.net
- ezenia (add streaming to your site) www.ezenia.com
- Workfire (genetic caching software to speed up sites) www.workfire.com
- Logitech - no product freebies — only “hot tamales” and “Cool and Comfortable” (candies) www.logitech.com
- enonymous (protect your privacy) www.enonymous.com
- echarge (your customers pay via their telephone bill) www.echarge.com
- GoAmerica (wireless, national ISP) www.goamerica.net
- POPCast (hosting for personal Webcasting) www.popcast.com
- ZKey (a closed community for calendar, address book, e-mail, etc.) www.zkey.com
- Entertainment Blvd (watch videos and movie trailers online) www.entertainmentblvd.com
- Flowerbud (cut out the middleman — go direct to grower) www.flowerbud.com
- Open Market (Build your e-store on line with ShopSite.) www.openmarket.com
- ImproveNet (Redo your kitchen or other project and find estimates, local contractors, design help, etc.) www.improvenet.com
- InformIt (Your online reference: all the best texts and manuals online — some free.) www.informit.com
- bargainclothing.com (shop for women’s clothes online.) www.bargainclothing.com

Miscellany

The editors of PC Magazine must have heard Ellison’s talk at Internet World. The cover of the November 2 issue shouts: “Throw out your software — Run Your Applications Over the Web Instead!” Yes, they’re talking about small business apps, but they managed to spend 20 pages (minus at least 10 for ads) on the subject.

Also at Internet World, I had a brief chat with Esther Dyson, looking for her take on the incomprehensibly rude interview of her on CNBC. She didn’t admit to understanding it either. And yet, we find headlines like Kevin’s, above, and “Ralph Nader renews criticism of ICANN” in the September 27 issue of CNET news. (ICANN stands for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.) Once again I went to CNET for more information. Searched in “ICANN” and found 117 news items from September 1998 to date. On the ICANN, site, www.icann.org, I found a reference to Internet Assigned Numbers Authority at www.iana.org which was run by Jon Postel, who died last year after spend-

ing much time keeping the Net orderly and its population at peace.

One of the CNET articles mentioned ARIN, the American Registry for Internet Numbers, at www.arin.net which “is responsible for allocating and assigning IP addresses in the Americas.” It is one of three Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) worldwide which collectively provide IP registration services to all regions around the globe. The others are RIPE NCC (Europe, Middle East, parts of Africa) at www.ripe.net and APNIC (Asia Pacific) at www.apnic.net. They are responsible for the allocation of IP addresses, numbers, to people and organizations and perhaps, in the future, to PCs, toasters, cars and TVs. Other organizations will be responsible for allocating names (URLs.) ICANN is to regulate all of these. Is it all clear? We’ll discuss it at the next meeting.

Science

Science Magazine’s online version, www.sciencemag.org, is published by HighWire Press, which can be found at a number of URLs, www.highwire.org, intl.highwire.org, and highwire.stanford.edu. This last a giveaway that this is an online publishing venture for the mostly scientific community by Stanford University (www.stanford.edu). It’s mostly biomedical stuff, and lots of it — some free, but they also host the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (some free access at www.pnas.org) and list the Oxford English Dictionary as a soon-to-be-included resource. They seem to be providing mirroring services overseas through Digital Island (www.digisle.net), which specializes in providing “network services for globalizing e-Business applications.” (Who knows what other overseas outfits are involved!) Check out some of these sites to get an idea of what’s really involved in making all this great stuff happen on the Net.

Science Magazine’s Netwatch, October 8, recommends Microbe Zoo at commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/dlc-me. In particular, check out Microbe of the Month! Dinosaur fans will welcome www.bbc.co.uk/dinosaurs, a site designed to go with a British Broadcasting dinosaur series. For more serious researchers on the physics side, the Department of Energy is sponsoring pubsci.osti.gov, which will feature a citation index of around 2,000 journals. Even ZDNet has joined this enterprise, along with some of the mighty names.

From the October 15 issues we have a glowing report on a site devoted to archeology in the Valley of the Kings in Thebes. It features a virtual balloon tour of the area including through the tombs. There’s a section devoted to current reports on findings at the digs which were started in 1995. There’s a note about a joint venture of Microsoft and MIT at the latter to explore ways to incorporate computers into the curriculum. MIT insists Microsoft will derive no direct benefit, but wanna bet they’ll have to use Windows? Another interesting site is devoted to the landmark crossing of the six billion mark by the human population of this planet and effects on the planet’s ecology. This at www.cnie.org/billion.

From the October 22 issue we have a present from the Naval Observatory for you sky buffs: Images of Galactic Planetary Nebulae from the Hubble planetary telescope at

continued

aries.usno.navy.mil:80/ad_home/pne. Interested in brain science? MIT is starting a new site devoted to the subject at *cognet.mit.edu*. It's free until next September, when membership will probably run \$30/year. Join and you'll be there with leaders in the field, in chat groups, reading latest results and participating, at least for a while. Another present from USNO and the National Institute of Standards and Technology at *www.time.gov* will give you the exact time with an error estimate based on its timing of protocol signals. The NIST site also has downloadable software to synchronize your PC to their atomic clock.) See some of this at *www.sciencemag.org*. They also have free, public stuff.

I had trouble getting into the British journal Nature site, so we'll have to bypass it until I find out what's wrong.

Scientific American has put "Week of..." on their Web Features page. The subject for the Week of October 25 is "A Century in Mathematics." In 1900 the great mathematician David Hilbert proposed an agenda of 23 problems to be solved in this century. Most have been solved and a great deal more has been learned. The author relates there is a committee working on a set of problems to be targeted in the next century. The "ask the Experts" question this month is "How do air bags work?" The Current Pick of the Web is genealogy, the recommended site being *www.familysearch.com*. See these and other items of interest at *www.sciam.com*.

Finance

Recently I tried to login to Schwab and found them in the middle of a big mess. Even their internal system was down. Depending on which function you were after, they were down for two hours to two days. Shades of Y2K?

From Yahoo! News, October 18: "E*Trade Sets High-Speed Web Access." E*Trade is the No. 2 U.S. Web brokerage, second only to Charles Schwab. This is about a joint venture with SBC Communications to offer a select group of "most active traders" faster Net access through DSL broadband service. They plan a joint marketing campaign targeting 35 million

potential customers. The article cites a J.P. Morgan study of potential in Germany, where E*Trade and Effektenbank AG join to offer the service. The German market for online trading is expected to grow from 200,000 at end of 1998 to almost 3 million by end of 2002.

At Brookhaven I worked with a fellow whose parents were great fans of point and figure charts. They laboriously plotted charts on hundreds of securities every trading day. This during the 60s, a fortunately rising market. They made a modest income this way and considered that they were, in fact, earning their profits by their diligence and wisdom.

Recently we have seen ads on CNBC for a high-tech betting parlor serving day traders in the Delaware valley area (?) with work stations and high-speed connections to the exchanges. A local builder, now retired, used to hang out at the local Charles Schwab office with his cronies. The seats, ticker, and order entry terminals reminded me of a high class OTB parlor, a great place for retired fellows to socialize, and served to get them out of the house where they were under foot. Then Schwab decided his offices should be more businesslike. They were redesigned to eliminate the betting parlor. Now the old men (and women) have no place to socialize! My builder friend called me to help him set up to trade from home. Now he'll socialize in chat rooms and get in the way of his wife's efforts to keep the house clean.

I'm disturbed by the proliferation of online trading. We haven't seen this kind of public participation in the market since the twenties. (No, I don't remember the crash and the depression, except I remember the big people arguing about money and that life was pretty spare.) It seems at times to be a feeding frenzy and blind luck plays a bigger part in it than many will admit. We seem to invest not so much in companies in whose products we believe; not even in those we think will make money, but in those we think others will be interested in and bid up the price. It all depends on psychology, but where's the meat? There is no clear line between tulip mania and produc-

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

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

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

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.		

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 14.

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>)

Nov. 13-14: NJ Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison. Free seminars Saturday and Sunday! (on Windows 2000 & more!)

ACGNJ Hotline

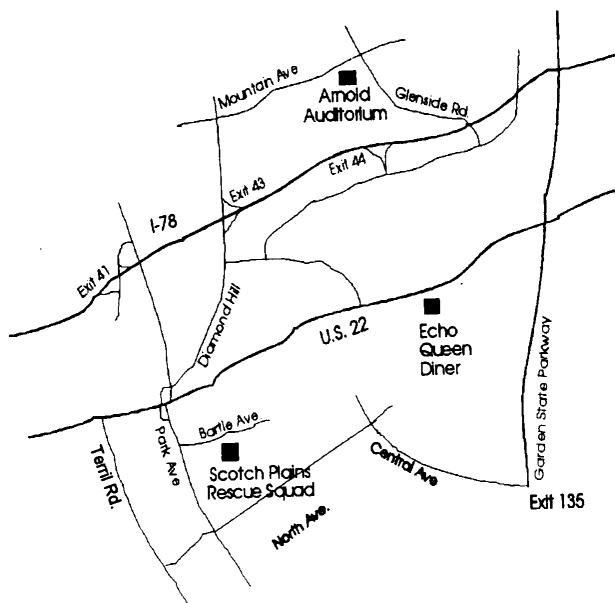
(908) 322-4654

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

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

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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>)

Monday, November 1

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

Tuesday, November 2

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 3

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

Thursday, November 4

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum, 973-376-8965.

Friday, November 5

8 P.M. - Main Meeting. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681

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, 973-361-5793

Thursday, November 11

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

Friday, November 12

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

Tuesday, November 16

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

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes. New meeting place. See SIG News, page 15 for details. Mike Barlow. Meeting at the offices of Bright Ideas Software, Edison NJ. Info Line: (732) 417-5778 ext 5 .

Wednesday, November 17

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

Friday, November 19

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.

Monday, November 22

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

Thursday, November 25

8 P.M. - (No meeting) Genealogy. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Friday, November 26

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

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

Tuesday, November 30

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

Wednesday, December 1

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

Thursday, December 2

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum, 973-376-8965.

Friday, December 3

8 P.M. - Main Meeting. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681

Monday, December 6

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

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.