

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

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PC User Group News

by Jo-Anne Head, PC User Group Chair, ACGNJ V. P.



The PC User Group met on February 19, 1999 for the final Home Networking series meeting. About five or six members brought their computers and networked them in realtime. Rick had some problems with his box but by the end of the night he was on the network and everyone could see his IP address.

Charlie Huffsmith brought in his computer because he had tried networking at home and had problems. His old computer didn't want to take his brand new 3Com NIC network drivers. John Raff tackled this rather thorny problem and the two of them worked on it for an hour. It was finally solved when they reinstalled Windows98, thanks to another member who happened to have the Win98 CD on him. After that there was another problem: the 3Com drivers were on a floppy disk, and Charlie's computer refused to read the floppy disk. It took them a little longer but the two of them figured out that the floppy driver controller had shaken loose while being carried around up and down stairs and carted around in Charlie's truck. They reconnected it and the floppy drive worked and took the 3Com drivers. Charlie was very happy that he got his networking problem solved at the PC User Group meeting and he was very impressed with how John Raff got involved with his problem immediately and stayed with it until it was completely solved.

Going forward, at March's PC User Group meeting I will be demonstrating Winfax Pro 9.0, and raffling off 2 full copies of the software to paid-up members. Since membership only costs \$25 and this software costs \$119.95 if you buy it, I think you can see that it pays to be a member of the ACGNJ. I will also be giving out discount forms for Symantec software, so even if you don't win the raffle, you can get Symantec software for less than half price by coming out to the meeting and picking up a form. ☞

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For Your Inquiries

Officers

President	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Vice President	Jo-Anne Head	(908) 769-7385
Treasurer	John Sheetz	(908) 771-0196
Recording Secretary	David Lampe	(201) 653-6919
Corresponding Sec'y	Elaine Lampe	(201) 653-6919
Past President	Bill Farrell	(732) 572-3481

Special Interest Groups

APCUG Rep.	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
C Languages	Bruce Arnold	(908) 735-7898
Concordia	Jerry Entin	(609) 395-8178
Genealogy	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Investing	Sheldon Koepf	(973) 740-2489
Internet	Marty Rosenblum	(973) 376-8965
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842
LUNICS	Peter Fillingham	(973) 731-9269
Macintosh	Keith Sproul	(732) 821-4828
PC Users	Jo-Anne Head	(908) 769-7385
Random Access	Scott Vincent	(973) 361-5793
Symposium	John Raff	(973) 533-0664
Visual Basic for Apps	James Ditaranto	(201) 986-1104

Board of Directors

Director Emeritus Through 2000	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
	Peter Fillingham	(973) 731-9269
	Bob Berto	(732) 247-4321
	Ted Martin	(732) 636-1942
	Kevin Shelly	(732) 828-9277
	Malathi Masurekar	(732) 560-1534
	Art Downer	(908) 233-9494
	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
	John Raff	(973) 533-0664
	Martin Rosenblum	(973) 376-8965
	Scott Vincent	(973) 361-5793

Through 1999

Standing Committees

Bulletin Board Sysop	Bob Berto	(732) 247-4321
Facilities	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
Financial	Jo-Anne Head	(908) 769-7385
Liaison	Bill Farrell	(732) 572-3481
Membership	Martin Rosenblum	(973) 376-8965
Newsletter	Milton Astroff	(609) 395-1427
Special Interest Groups	Kevin Shelly	(732) 828-9277
Trenton ComputerFest	Scott Vincent	(973) 361-5793
Webmasters	Martin Rosenblum	(973) 376-8965
	John Raff	(973) 533-0664

ACGNJ News

Editor

Barbara DeGroot
145 Gun Club Road
Palmerton PA 18071
Tel: (610) 377-8632
Fax: (610) 377-9362
bdegroot@ptdprolog.net

Publisher

Milton Astroff
2C Truro Drive
Cranbury NJ 08512
Tel: (609) 395-1427
Fax: (609) 395-1428
waterbury_press@compuserve.com

E-Mail Addresses

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

Bruce Arnold	barnold@blast.net
Milton Astroff	Waterburypress@compuserve.com
Bob Berto	bob.berto@acgnj.org
Barbara DeGroot	bdegroot@ptdprolog.net
James Ditaranto	fryr92a@prodigy.com
Jerry Entin	jerryentin@worldnet.att.net
Bill Farrell	bill.farrell@acgnj.org wfarr18124@aol.com
Peter Fillingham	pete@panix.com
Jo-Anne Head	tinarock@aol.com
Joe Kennedy	jsk@home.com
Sheldon Koepf	sheldonk@intac.com
David Lampe	david.lampe@entex.com
Elaine Lampe	Charmer21@Juno.com
Sol Libes	sol@libes.com
Ted Martin	TedJoy564@aol.com
Malathi Masurekar	masureka@umdnj.edu
Arnold Milstein	arnold_milstein@bigfoot.com
Angela Perone	classem@aol.com
John Raff	jraff@injersey.com
Winston (Toby) Riley	njpeace@igc.apc.org
Steven Rodriguez	cybertech72@bigfoot.com
Marty Rosenblum	m.rosenblum@ieee.org
John Sheetz	FTMK71A@prodigy.com
Kevin Shelly	kjshelly@injersey.com
Matt Skoda	matthew.skoda@acgnj.org
Keith Sproul	ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu
Scott Vincent	svincent@ix.netcom.com
Frank Warren	kb4cyc@webwarren.com

Associate Editor

Jo-Anne Head
(908) 769-7385
tinarock@aol.com

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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 (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

Apologia

This letter is coming to you from Florida — our annual trip to celebrate Mom's birthday. It is also tax season — I belong to a troop of brave volunteers who do taxes for mostly poor senior citizens. Also we've been through lots of family illness which has kept me from devoting the time this column requires. I beg your indulgence for an abbreviated column.

Web News

Item: WNJN, Business News Minute, 1/24. An announcement that Internet kiosks were being installed at New York and New Jersey airports and similar public places. The kiosks were to be free to travelers, operating and capital costs being paid for out of advertising revenues. The service would have porn filters installed. This is really a follow-up on an article from the New York Times 11/11/98: "N.Y. Airports Embrace Internet", by Jane L. Levere. I didn't think to check out the kiosks at Newark Airport on my way to Florida until I arrived at the gate. When I asked, the only one they knew of was in a bar on the other side of security — not worth running that gauntlet again. I did see a fellow with his laptop plugged into a power socket on one of the columns. Later, when we arrived in Fort Lauderdale, I almost tripped over a young lady working on a laptop, sitting on the floor, halfway between a power socket and an AT&T payphone-terminal with about six feet of wire to each connector. She told me that AT&T charges about \$6 per hour for the connection.

Item: WNJN, State of the Arts, January 24: "The Song is You." A series of profiles of Classical singers in New Jersey. One segment was devoted to Thomas Hampson, a tall, handsome baritone with an impressive voice. He has a Web site, www.hampsong.com.

Item: On the same program, they made reference to a neat calendar of artistic events in NJ at showcase.njn.net.

Item: WNET, Cityarts, January 24: "Reading Room Restored." A piece about the restoration of the New York Public Library's fantastic reading room. In addition to the hundreds of tables and chairs there are scads of Internet terminals. Visit Cityarts at www.wnet.org/cityarts5 and the Library at www.nypl.org.

Item: Yahoo - Reuters, 2/2: "New York (Reuters) - International Business Machines Corp. (NYSE:IBM - news) and Bell Atlantic Corp. (NYSE:BEL - news) Tuesday said they will team up to equip homes for full networking, leading consumers closer to having 'smart homes' that can link all digital devices."

"This year the companies will wire as many as 15,000 new houses in Bell Atlantic's Maine-to-Virginia service region with the ability to link computers with each other and with peripheral devices such as VCRs, and to share Internet connections across multiple phone lines."

"Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM, the world's biggest computer maker, will supply the research and technology to Bell Atlantic's construction unit, which wires homes, including a hub that will join various wiring types. Customers will receive a combination of coaxial cable and various telephone wires

depending on their needs, Bell Atlantic spokesman Mark Marchand told Reuters."

"IBM is also developing a series of computer applications that will run on the new infrastructure, including a home management application. IBM will work with New York-based Bell Atlantic on market development, sales and technical support."

"Besides the more typical applications of networks, such as home business uses, communications and entertainment, customers will have the potential to turn their home lights on or off from outside the home, monitor a sleeping baby or a backyard with a video camera, or use one VCR for any video monitor in the house. Each room in a house will most likely be able to connect to the network, Marchand said."

"Prices will start at \$1,000 for adding the infrastructure to new homes, Marchand said, but will go up as capability is added, depending on the customer's preference. Later in 1999 the companies plan to offer retrofitting of existing homes with the new service."

All in time for last month's home-intranetworking theme.

Item: Yahoo - Reuters, February 2: "AT&T To Offer Phone Service Over Time Warner TV Wires", by Jessica Hall

"New York (Reuters) - AT&T Corp. (NYSE:T - news), the nation's largest telecommunications company, and media group Time Warner Inc. (NYSE:TWX - news) said Monday they formed a joint venture to offer local phone service over Time Warner's cable television wires in 33 states, giving AT&T greater reach to compete against the Baby Bell local phone companies."

"AT&T aims to provide local phone service over the cable companies' networks instead of using traditional copper phone lines. Since the break-up of AT&T and the creation of the Baby Bell local phone companies in 1984, AT&T lost control of the local telephone lines that connect directly into customers homes and businesses."

"Using cable TV wires to provide phone service, AT&T can bypass the Baby Bell's phone lines, and the costly access charges, to reach customers. The Time Warner and TCI deals will allow AT&T to reach more than 40 percent of U.S. households."

Investing

From ZDTV's *moneywatch*, a good recommendation for mutual fund investors is Money Magazine's Mutual Fund Finder: www.pathfinder.com/money/fundfinder. An excellent site, new to me but old hat to Sheldon, is Yahoo's quote.yahoo.com/?u. And, of course, for international traders, the new europa.eu.int/eurobirth/rates.html.

There's an incredible amount of news about hot Internet stocks, but while there might be a time down the road when some are "worth" their present prices, the frenzy seems like little better than the old tulip mania. Nor can one have a warm, fuzzy feeling about E*trade's recent announcement that they're going into the investment banking business. Are they going to be bankrolling these hot new IPOs? I think I'd best stay away from the subject. ☞

Windows Tips, Tricks & Tweaks

by M.L. Gigglesman (Houston Area League of PC Users)

Closing All Windows Under My Computer

If you have been working in My Computer and have several windows open, there is a quick way to close all the windows, including My Computer. Hold the Shift key down and click on the close box (the small X in the upper right corner of the Title Bar).

Fast Access To Object Properties

To see the Properties of an object, you can always right click on the object and then select Properties on the menu. There is a faster way. Hold the Alt key down and double-click on the object to immediately open the Properties box.

Recovering From A System Hang

If your system freezes, try pressing Ctrl+Esc. It just may bring up the Start Menu, which will allow a safe system shut-down. Otherwise, use Ctrl+Alt+Del and select End Task to attempt to shut down the frozen application. You may be able to save information in other applications, but you will probably lose anything not saved in the application that was ended. If that doesn't work, you will have to press Shut Down or press Ctrl+Alt+Del a second time to shut the system down. You will lose everything that wasn't saved prior to the hang.

Using QuikView

On the CD-ROM version of Windows 95 is a handy utility called QuikView, a utility which allows you to preview a document without opening the program it was created in (located on Disk 2, in SUPPDSK2.CAB). Or you can download it from Microsoft:

support.microsoft.com/support/downloads/dp1674.asp

Create a shortcut for QuikView on the Desktop — you can now simply drag a file onto it to be viewed.

Need A Report Of System Settings?

To get a report of system settings, click on Control Panel, System, and select the Device Manager tab. An alternate method is to right-click My Computer and select Properties, and the Device Manager tab. Select Print and you are given the option of printing to the printer or to a file. Available reports are a System Summary or a very detailed report (25+ pages) which includes all devices and the system summary.

Speed Browsing In Internet Explorer

Cache size directly affects browsing speed. If the size of the cache is increased to hold more pages, you will be able to browse faster. Be aware that this requires more disk space, so be certain you have enough free hard disk space. From the menu, select View, Internet Options, and the General tab. Then select Temporary Internet Files, Settings to open the Settings dialog box. Moving the slider toward the right increases the amount of cache disk space. The default setting is three percent. The maximum recommended size is ten percent. Click OK to save your setting, click OK again to close Internet Options.

Netscape Navigator: Behind The Scenes

Netscape contains several commands that display background information. To use these commands, type them in the URL location box.

- To find out what files are in the cache, type: `about:cache`
- To view the memory cache, type: `about:memory-cache`
- To see what images are stored in the cache, type: `about:image-cache`
- To see the plug-ins that Navigator loads, type: `about:plugins`

Windows 95 Icon Libraries

Windows 95 uses as the default icon file SHELL32.DLL, with additional icons located in PIFMGR.DLL. These files are located in C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM. Windows 3.x used PROGRAM.EXE as the default icon file, with additions icons located in MORICONS.DLL. In Windows 3.x and Windows 95, these files are located in C:\WINDOWS.

Check Your Email From Any Computer

Need to check your email, but don't have access to your computer? If you have access to any computer with an internet account, check out www.mailstart.com. This free service will contact your mail server and allow you to read and send messages. All you need to know is your email address and password. All mail is left on the server unless you specifically delete it.

Bypass UserID and Password Prompts

If you visit password-protected websites, you may be tired of typing in the UserID and password each time. To bypass the UserID/Password dialog boxes, in the Location box type: `http://userid:password@www.website.com`. You could also create a bookmark, but keep in mind if anyone has access to your computer, they can see your password. In this case, you can still shorten the log in process a bit by including only the UserID. You will be prompted only for the password. To do this, type: `http://userid@www.website.com`

M.L. Gigglesman is the Editorial Manager of the HAL-PC Magazine and can be reached at melgig@hal-pc.org.

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)

Horizon: Compression Programs

by Ron Murawski (*the_murs@pipeline.com*)

Until recently I thought I knew quite a bit about compression: I thought PKZIP was the best program. I had ICE, ZOO and LHARC — none of them came close to PKZIP in terms of compression or speed. I found ARJ could achieve similar compression and execution time and occasionally improved on it, but the differences were so minor it wasn't worth the trouble to learn the command set. The Archive Comparison Test home page at <http://act.by.net/act.html> has been instrumental in teaching me about compression. All programs mentioned here can be downloaded through links at this site.

For compression, PKZIP rates near the bottom of the list of more than 70 archiving programs benchmarked every month! It turns out that PKZIP is optimized for execution speed only. PKZIP's compression is woeful by comparison to these better programs. So, what they? They have names like ACB, ARI, BOA, BZIP, HA, HAP, JAR, RAR, RKIVE, SZIP, UFA, X1 and YAC. Never heard of them? Neither had I.

I've been playing around with them for several months and I'm ready to comment. They are, by and large, experimental. Some of the best are beta versions that most ftp sites refuse to carry. You must go to <ftp://ftp.elf.stuba.sk/pub/pc/pack> for them. The site allows only 5 simultaneous anonymous users so you will almost certainly have to try repeatedly before you finally connect. A few are available in source code form, mostly GNU "copyleft" programs. Some are commercial efforts offered as shareware.

Believe it or not, compression programs have become a hotbed of new ideas and developments. Some new archivers use "Associative Coding" and some use the "Burroughs-Wheeler Transform". "PPM" (Prediction by Partial Matching) is another technique. Almost all create "solid" archives and call older archives "hollow". The truly curious can visit <http://www.internz.com/compression-pointers.html>. There you can read doctoral theses on the subject or download source code and libraries.

Another instructional site is Stig Valentini's X1 home page at <http://www.ufsia.ac.be/~skimo/x1/x1homepg.html>. (Note: the editor was unable to hit this website, but located X1 at <http://www.sci.fi/~x1/index.html>.) Who is Stig Valentini, you ask? Well, Stig says about himself: "No house, job, girlfriend, dog or such — just my PC, books and my parents... Been coding for as long as I can remember..." This guy breathes and dreams compression programming. His X1 makes ZIP files by default. Of course they are much smaller ZIP files than you're accustomed to! Amazingly, you can use PKUNZIP to decompress them. X1 can make smaller ARJ files too. But it is when you specify an .X archive file that compression really soars. Like most of the others, it's DOS-based. The only bad thing I've got to say is that it is confusing learning the X1's idiosyncratic command-line syntax. For instance, using the "xem4l2" option (not saving path names and using method 4, level 2) seems to result in optimal compression.

If you are a Windows 95 user, require long file name support, and don't mind a command-line interface, then JAR is your best choice. I have found JAR's compression to be outstand-

ing. I've started using it to backup my DATA directory to floppy disks. My 1075 files totaling 31 MB fit onto 9 JAR-archived 1.44 MB disks including the additional error-recovery code (ERC). With the ERC, up to 28K of damage per 1.44 disk can be recovered. My compressed archive is 40% of the original size — simply amazing because my DATA directory contains 57 ZIP files totaling more than 8 MB and ZIP files are usually considered incompressible. Read about JAR and download the latest beta from <http://www.arjsoft.com/>. Be warned: the command syntax to this complex program is just as confusing as X1's.

If you are a Windows 95 user and want the familiar Win95 interface you can use WinZip or WinRar. WinRar, from Germany, will almost always give you better compression.

What does this all mean? I think industry standardization on PKZIP will weaken. Computer users historically have always embraced newer, better programs. With Pentium machines compression speed seems fast enough with many of the new breed of compression programs. Although it is typical for ftp sites to have ZIP files, there are more and more self-extracting EXE files listed today. Most newer compression programs can create these self-extractors. PKZIP will have to improve or be swept aside by all the new competitors. Read the Archive Comparison Test monthly to keep current on the latest breakthroughs.

Ron Murawski is a computer consultant from Staten Island. Feedback or advice for future articles is invited. You can read "On the Horizon" at <http://www.castlemall.com>. ☐

David J. Raibert

by Steve Leon

Dave Raibert died on February 17th. He was 75, but it was not old age that took him. He had had three heart bypass operations, but it was a fall at home that brought his demise.

Our younger members are probably asking who am I talking about? (As they are probably asking, who is the guy writing this obit?) Dave, and yours truly, and a lot of other very fine people date back to the time that ACGNJ first became a power in home computers. We could command speakers at our functions from Bill Gates on up to Bill Gates on down!

Dave was "the money man." He was the CPA who kept tabs on the substantial sums we made from TCF when it was, in fact, held at Trenton. He kept the money under control first with the SIG/M library (that was a CP/M library that first promoted Public Domain software, and if you don't know what CP/M is, just hide your head in shame). It was Dave who watched the money starting when the IBM PC came out (tape cassette port and all).

Lots of other people, some of whom you young ones never even heard of, helped contribute to the growth of ACGNJ. However, when they form a line of those who contributed the most, Dave will be near the front. We will miss him. ☐

Am I Safe Surfing the Internet?

by Mike Kaltschnee (Danbury Area Computer Society)

When I was asked to write about Internet cookies, I figured people were getting concerned about Internet security. I teach the Webmaster program at Naugatuck Valley Community Technical College, where we spend quite a bit of class time talking about how to protect your web server and why no one really explains how to protect yourself while surfing? I did not intend this article to be scary in any way; I surf regularly and don't worry about it, but only after taking just a few quick precautions.

Surfing is safe! Surfing the Internet is really very safe. The statistics are with you: There are 40 million people on the Internet as many as four or five million online at any one time and unless you call attention to yourself, no one may even know that you're around.

Be good in the chat room Chat rooms and newsgroups are another story. If you participate in either, you could make enemies. If you respond in a way someone doesn't like, they could start harassing you in new and unusual ways. They could send you e-mail, hundreds a second that will fill up your mailbox. They could complain about you and get your account canceled (it's hard to prove or disprove things on the Internet, and for fear of being sued, most ISPs will cancel accounts). And if your antagonists are really savvy about how things work, they could cause much more trouble, but the odds of this happening are small. Avoid flaming (causing trouble for the sake of argument only in a chat room or newsgroup), and you'll save yourself a lot of trouble.

Turn off network sharing Some of my students who live in the greater Hartford area have cable modems, which are cheap, fast, and billed right to your cable bill (I hate paying too many bills). But since they are new, these new modems are causing new security problems.

When you install your Internet software, you are installing network software for TCP/IP (the way computers talk over the Internet). The Internet is really just a big network, and your computer is actually part of it. Most people have never used the sharing ability of Windows 95 and don't realize that they have to turn it off. If you don't turn it off, you'll have the same experience as one of my students: He was able to surf not only the Internet but his neighbors computers as well. He could see everything on their hard disks!

Microsoft acknowledges that this is a bug, and even posts a workaround. You have to turn off File and Print sharing by selecting the Start button/Control Panel/Network. Click on the File & Print Sharing button, then turn off the ability to share files. You should do this even if you have a regular modem, but don't if you have a network (e-mail me for instructions if you have questions).

Cookies Internet cookies have no calories but can be a problem in other ways. Cookies are files that a website can store on your local hard disk, and are mostly used to keep track of your password, name, preferences, etc. They can be handy, saving you the effort of having to enter your password to the New York Times every time you log on, and they can tailor advertising to your preferences.

The most common use of a cookie is in an electronic shopping cart, where the cookie is used to keep track of your purchases. Don't worry, a cookie cannot contain a virus, be read by any other website, or be used to see where you've been (that can be done without a cookie). Most cookies only contain an encrypted user ID number and are useless except to the website that generated them. If you want to turn them off, see the help in your Web browser for detailed instructions. I have gone from turning them off to leaving them on. I think they are safe and that it's not worth the hassle of turning them off. If you are uncomfortable with the concept, however, just turn them off.

Hackers I think the biggest threat to user security is human (Wetware) rather than computer. The best hackers have always been masters of social engineering, or the ability to BS their way past anyone. A famous scam was recently run by someone claiming to be from Yahoo asking for credit card numbers. Another involved someone claiming to be from AOL administration who would ask for your user name and password. It got so bad that AOL now has to warn users constantly that AOL staff would never ask for this information. The best way to protect yourself if you receive a questionable request is to first think carefully about the request; if it sounds fishy, call back by phone (but call the main number, not the one on the e-mail).

I can see yours The final security issue I'd like to mention is an "I Can See Your Hard Disk" trick that's going around. You'll be surfing innocently and press a button, only to be presented with the contents of your hard disk. Don't worry, no one can read the contents of your local hard disk. All they are doing is telling the browser to load your local directory into a window. It was a little unnerving the first time I saw it, but I assure you it's perfectly harmless but a neat trick.

I hope I didn't scare you off the Internet; it really is safe. Just be careful walking down those dark alleys at night, and use your common sense.

Mike Kaltschnee (mikek@demorgan.com) is a co-owner of DeMorgan Industries Corp., the leading developer of Web graphics and also teaches Webmaster and Internet marketing classes at the Internet School in Naugatuck Valley Community Technology College. ☐

Are You Certified?

ACGNJ News would like to recognize members who have achieved certification (network, software or hardware). To get on the list, please send e-mail the Editor (bdegroot@ptdprolog.net). Remember to specify what certification(s) you hold, when you received it (them), and what level (if applicable). ☐

Electronic Serial Numbers for Chips

Security Help or Privacy Intrusion?

by J.D. Abolins/Meyda Online (jda-ir@njcc.com)

In late January, the Intel Corporation announced a controversial new feature for the Pentium III chips: a unique serial number electronically embedded in every chip. Intel calls the feature "Processor Serial Number" (PSN).

The ID would be a 64-bit number created by fusing wires on the chip together during its manufacturing. This number would be used along with the current 32-bit CPUID to create a unique 96-bit number that can be read by software. Intel offered software that would allow the user to turn off the PSN.

The chip can identify each machine and, by extension, may identify the user or general owner of each machine. The chip will also contain a random number generator to aid cryptography.

Intel claims that the electronic identifier and the random number generator will provide these benefits to help electronic commerce and enhance some aspects of security by:

- making it easier for merchants to verify customers' identity
- making it possible to detect stolen PCs on the Internet, thus helping to reduce the market for stolen PCs. (But later Intel said it would not track the PSNs and customers.)
- helping detect "overclocking" of PCs (vendors setting the system to run faster than the processor was intended to run and selling the PC at a higher price) by allowing buyers to check their system against Intel's listings of speeds for processors by matching the PSNs.
- aiding cryptography for electronic commerce by the random number generator.

In the workplace, the serialization might be useful for remote management of PCs and help desk record keeping.

Hypothetically, the serial number could be used to mark email to tie Internet email more closely to a particular PC and, thus, to a contact person. Some might see this as a help to fight forged email and spam. (Not necessarily. More about this later.)

Privacy Concerns Raised

"The application is a double-edged sword. On the one hand it offers more security — for e-commerce and information security," says Barry Steinhardt, associate director and privacy expert at the American Civil Liberties Union (<http://www.aclu.org>).

The prospect of the PSN becoming a commonly required "ID" for any computer activities caught the attention of many people and groups. Some deemed the PSN having the potential for becoming "the Social Security Number of the online world". Other people noticed weaknesses in the security claims for the PSN.

The privacy and security concerns include:

- Easier tracking of people's computer activities, especially online. Although initially the machine's identity might not be matched with a specific person, eventually, a pattern of transactions can give enough data to track people.

There is some concern that databases could be set up to match people to the machines.

- Encouraging vendors and others to require the electronic serial numbers in order to get service. If people choose to "opt out" with the patch offered by Intel, they might find it difficult to do many things on the Internet. The existence of many other chips and systems helps to moderate such a trend. If all the major PCs go to electronic serial numbers, watch out!
- If the serial number is hacked or forged, identity theft could be done. Even simpler is processor chip swapping where a person swaps processor chips. This could even be done by computer support or repair people. The same techniques, however, could provide some identity tracking scrambling to help privacy if it is done among consenting parties.
- The PSN identifies the computer but not the person using it. If a computer is sold or used by many people, a "tainted" reputation may be transferred to the other users.
- Bruce Schneier, a cryptographer expert, pointed out that the PSN's one real security advantage is in the detection of stolen processors. But the tracking of the PSNs and customers is one thing that Intel said it would not do.

Schneier summed up the security and privacy problems by saying, "Those who are engaged in illicit activities will subvert the system, while those who don't know any better will find their privacy violated."

Several cyberspace privacy groups called for a boycott of Intel products until the company drops the PSN and formed a "Big Brother Inside" Web site, parodying Intel's "Intel Inside" slogan.

Intel Seeks Damage Control

Intel tried to head off privacy concerns raised by the PSN. Intel announced quickly that the chip would be shipped with the PSN turned off by default instead of being on by default. Intel also offered a patch that could permanently turn off the PSN. These changes are deemed by many protesters not to be enough.

The Underlying Issues

The serialization of the chips is but one instance where a security measure can collide with privacy and with other aspects of security. These collisions occur because both privacy and security are complex entities. Many benefits have a flip side. Collisions also arise because one person's security enhancement can occur at the expense of another person's privacy or security.

Some claim that the electronic serial numbers are not much different from motor vehicle identification numbers (VIN), but the chip serialization is significantly different from a VIN. The VIN is not persistently visible. One has to look for it. The electronic serial number would be closer to a license/registration plate.

The PSN issue raises an ongoing question of "Identification and Authentication" (I&A) for security and the negotiation of

continued

Dumb is Smarter

by Bill Farrell (wfarr18124@aol.com)

"I gave it to my Mom and Dad!" Boy, do I detest that statement. I want to respond with "Do you dislike them that much?" Please don't give your problems to your loved ones.

I had occasion to visit a family of retired teachers who couldn't wait to show me what their son gave them. We walked in and were greeted with "Hey Bill, guess what we got!" Then there was a pause. I already know what's coming from the grin on their gleaming faces. "My son said you would show us how to set it up." Under my breath I was asking "Where is this son?? I never did anything to him!!"

I was figuring out what to do with all the boxes, disks, books, cables that these happy-looking people thought I would have together in minutes. Then came the famous Statement! I'm waiting for it, I know it's coming. Just as I was about to ask the famous question, the answer came from both of them and in harmony too. "My son said it was working great." "He bought the latest Super Super Super Computer." Then I was about to ask the next obvious question. I knew the answer but I was ready to ask it when the answer came, and again in harmony: "Oh, yeah, he likes to play games and does some typing for his job." I knew it.

Well, after 3 to 4 hours and a quick on-the-job retraining of Windows 3.1 and Autoexec.bat etc., I got it booted up and ... "Out of Memory". We have all seen it and cussed. I looked at his drive (all of 20 MB) and all of the files were in the root Directory. I realized I had the rest of the day here.

There was so much junk, and cross-linked files, etc. that I just made the decision to format the C drive, reload 3.1 and started over. I lucked out because the setup disks were in one

of the boxes. Fortunately I was with people who stayed with me and ask some good questions.

It's been several months now and I figured I did a bang up job and was patting myself on the back, thinking all was well, when my wife came into the shop and said "Hey hot shot, did you hear about that 386 computer you spent all day with a couple of months ago?" The obvious answer was, "No What about it?" "Well, those people took your suggestion and purchased a new computer." I thought, "Great!"

I should have known better because my wife had that ___ grin on her face and that means the shoe is about to drop. "Yeah, you did such a good job that rather than bother you with upgrading it, they gave it to the church." I replied, "Hey Great," and there was a pause and the grin didn't go away. "They gave the Secretary your phone number and told her what a nice guy you were." With that she burst out laughing and went into the house, and guess what happened next. The phone rang and a female voice said "Mr. Farrell this is St. Johns Church. Are you connected with that Computer Club in Scotch Plains?"

The moral of this story is: Stay dumb and shove your ego!!

I gave a 386 and a printer to a friend's friend. All he wanted to do was type up labels etc. The phone calls just never stopped. For the man-hours lost from my shop I could have purchased a new computer and given it to him. I would go straighten it out and the next day he would call and say the computer wasn't working again. I finally gave up and referred him to a service shop. No more phone calls — dumb *is* smarter! ☹

Serial Numbers, *continued*

privacy and security. Over the years, some people have argued that information security requires absolute identification and authentication of all network users at all times. The absolute I&A on a broad scale, however, would severely diminish privacy.

To put the question in a loose analogy: Should every person's purchase of a cup of coffee be linked to the person and tracked? On the other hand, an application for a mortgage does call for verification of identity.

The controversy over the PSN and similar schemes is going to continue for a while. It will be interesting to see if the controversy will affect the sales of the Pentium III chip. There may also be a number of adaptations, such as special third-party utilities or hardware, to hide or alter the electronic serial number, leading to an eventual equilibrium in the privacy-security tension. It is still too early to take this Intel announcement as the "end of privacy".

J.D. Abolins is a member of the Princeton PC Users Group (<http://www.ppcug-nj.org>) and the Lower Buck Computer Users Group (<http://www.meydabbs.com/~jda-ir/lug/>) and a computer professional. He provides Internet support and develops Web sites for a civilian government agency. Outside of

work, he studies and writes about information security and privacy issues. He is a member of the International Computer Security Association and the Information Systems Security Association. He set up his Meyda Online Web pages (<http://www.meydabbs.com/~jda-ir>) as an educational resource. He is registered to speak on Online Security & Privacy at TCF99.

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Trying Cable Modem

by Rich Schinnell, Capital PC User Group (schinnel@cpcug.org)

I bit when Montgomery Cable called me with the information about its new cable modem service. (CATV Montgomery and Arlington apparently have the same owners.) The pitch is service costs \$24.95 for 10 hours a month of use and provides fantastic Internet file transfer speeds. (*ACGNJ Ed. Note: Cable rates given are for Maryland. Here in NJ, you can have a cable modem through ComCast @Home for \$40 per month, unlimited hours — a better deal than in the writer's neighborhood.*) I decided to check it out. I can report that it went pretty smoothly. I did not, however, choose the option of having the company's technician install the cable TV connection. I figured I could pick up the parts and do it myself. The company explained to me that most users need an Ethernet card, which is sold to them, and they are provided with a COM21 cable modem, all cables and connectors, and the easy installation instructions. Surprisingly, the easiest part about the installation was the cable modem connection to my existing Ethernet hub. I run a Windows NT server and Novell 3.12 on my network at home and did not want them corrupted. The cable modem did not interfere at all with my existing network. Installing a network board on the machines of most individuals should be pretty easy. Then just plug the Ethernet cable and the CATV cable into the cable modem, and plug in the modem power cord. Once you have set up a dial-up networking icon (see my column for June 1998) and added Microsoft networking and TCP/IP to your control panel networks feature, setup proceeds quite smoothly. The directions provided with the cable modem are very clear. I think that even a nontechie can complete a successful installation.

I completed the paperwork on Friday, May 15, and picked up the hardware that evening from the cable company offices near the intersection of Gude Drive and Route 355. There was a problem because the paperwork for my userid and such had not yet reached the people who set them up on the company's computer. MCTV is an Internet service provider (ISP), so you get another userid. I can get e-mail and read Internet news via its server. I also had a small problem with my userid because someone dropped an 'n' from my name. Once that was fixed, things went well. I am getting about 3 Mbytes/min on file downloads. I grabbed the new Microsoft Internet Explorer, which is about 16.5 Mbytes, and it only took about 5 minutes. Phew! Now I'll need to get a larger hard disk. To use the cable modem, you connect to the cable company's ISP server just as you would to cpcug.org or erols.com. You log in and establish a standard, dynamic IP connection. You can run any of the Internet clients, such as Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, or Eudora e-mail. The big difference is that most of the received data comes through the cable modem instead of your regular modem. So you effectively have two connections to the Internet, one from you via your regular modem and the other to you via a high-speed cable modem connection.

Recommendation

I think I will keep the cable modem and service, at least for a while. I do not, however, recommend cable modem if you are just getting online to read your e-mail or browse a few Web

pages. Even though the Web graphics do load really fast, the service is not cheap. And the 10 hours of service will go fast. For around \$65 you can have unlimited service — this is for the big users. I have other ISP accounts, so I will probably only use the cable modem when I know I have large files to receive.

Getting Started

You will need at least a Pentium 100 computer with 16 Mbytes of RAM, a modem, and a phone line. You must already have CATV service. If you want to try it, give them a call at (301) 424-4400.

Technical Support

The technical support person I talked to was very helpful. Even though the technical support office is in Fairfax, Virginia, he ended up dropping by the ISP server room in Rockville, Maryland, to check my userid, which is how he discovered the dropped "n" in my userid. All in all, it is a very easy install, and the staff is knowledgeable and helpful. If you wish, the company will send a technician to you to install everything for around \$150.

Update

I had to return the cable modem and stop the service. After signing up for cable modem service, I decided to upgrade my home network to the newer and faster 100BaseT system. The cable modem only works on a 10BaseT network. There went my fast Internet connection! My V.everything modems with the V.90 upgrades will be in use once again. The ISDN line is faster, but more expensive.

Backup Tip

Microsoft Office is causing problems again. I wondered why I kept seeing my A drive light come on intermittently. The cause was the Fast Find program, installed with Microsoft Office 97 Pro. It is constantly revising a data file index of files that have changed on the hard disk. It was also wreaking havoc with my backups because these index files were changing between the backup and verify stages of a backup operation, producing errors that I could not identify. The solution for me was to remove Fast Find from my Startup folder.

Classified

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

Get My Chocolate Out of Your Peanut Butter

by Douglas J. Katich, Esq. (Doug@kwpattoorneys.com)

Do you remember those kitschy Reese's Peanut Butter Cups commercials from years past? One person would be eating out of a peanut butter jar while walking toward another person who was totally absorbed with inhaling a chocolate candy bar. Invariably, the two people would collide into each other disrupting their junk food binge. Disoriented, they would protest, "You got your peanut butter in my chocolate... You got your chocolate in my peanut butter." Unable to resist the temptation, they would try the new concoction created by the collision and their faces would be overcome with delirium as they went on their separate ways enjoying their new confectionery creation.

Unlike the pleasant couples in those peanut butter cups commercials, in the world of Internet law today if you put someone else's chocolate in your peanut butter you will more than likely be served with a cease and desist letter. By chocolate, I'm referring to someone else's intellectual property rights such as trademarks and copyrights. As the Internet is more and more becoming a bone fide gold mine for corporations to increase their sales and advertising reach, it is also changing the landscape of the Internet from one of the free incorporation of all ideas to one of what's mine is mine. In other words, get my chocolate out of your peanut butter, or else. A number of my clients lately have found themselves in the unenviable position of looking down a two-barrel legal shot-gun by innocently incorporating just part of another's trademark in their domain names. Part of the problem is that there are millions of registered federal trademarks and tens of millions of unregistered trademarks out there. Many of my clients do not even know they are using another's trademark as part of their domain name until they are served with legal papers. Without a doubt, the use of trademarks in domain names is the most contentious issue in trademark law on the Internet today.

What is a trademark? It is a word, phrase, symbol or design, or combina-

tion of words, phrases, symbols or designs, which identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods or services of one party from those of others. Trademark rights arise from either (1) actual use of the mark, or (2) the filing of a proper application to register a mark in the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) stating that the application has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce. Federal registration is not required to establish rights in a mark, nor is it required to begin use of a mark. However, federal registration will secure the owner of the mark benefits beyond the rights acquired by merely using the mark. For example, the owner of a registered federal trademark is presumed to be the owner of the mark for the goods and services specified in the registration and entitled to nationwide use.

What is a domain name? The Internet is built on an infrastructure called Internet Protocol (IP). That is, data called IP packets are transferred to and from IP "addresses." Internet Protocol uses numbers as addresses. IP addresses consist of four series of numbers separated by periods called "dots" and, like telephone numbers, each IP address is unique. A typical IP address is .56.745.543. Because it is very difficult to remember numbers, the numbers are replaced by words or letters. These words are called "domain names." Domain names make up part of an Internet site's uniform resource locator (URL), a unique "address" by which an Internet resource (such as a page of text, graphic, etc.,) can be identified and found by web browser software. For example, in the following URL: <http://www.microsoft.com> "www" "microsoft" and "com" are all domain names. The remaining part of the URL "http" is the protocol identifier or access method.

Domains are broken up into "top level" domains (TLD). The TLD indicates the type of entity that owns the domain. These are, for example, ".com" (commercial organizations), ".edu" (educational organizations); and ".gov" (governmental organizations), to name

a few. The "second level" domain names (SLD) identifies the specific individual or organization to whom the domain belongs. For example, "microsoft" in the above example would be the second level domain.

InterNIC is the organization responsible for the registering and maintenance of most of the internet's top level domains. Until recently, InterNIC's policy for registering domain names was originally first-come, first-served. This policy was replaced recently by a new Dispute Resolution Policy that favors trademark holders over first-come domain name holders.

Problems arise when people or organizations select their SLDs or second level domain names. Regardless of the eventual change that may occur in trademark law, if a person's second level domain incorporates any part of another's trademark, a contentious legal dispute may arise. An analysis of current trademark infringement and dilution law is too encompassing for this article, but suffice it to say that the courts have weighed in on the side of the trademark holders over even innocent domain name holders. Though I do believe that over the next five to ten years certain exceptions to this rule will be carved out by the courts, the smart thing to do in the present is to protect yourselves prior to investing thousands of dollars into your web sites and web site advertisements.

When choosing a second level domain, consider the selection of the name as important as the name of your business itself. Also, determine whether someone else has already registered as a trademark the domain name you intend to use. Comprehensive trademark searches are available for a few hundred dollars and will inform you whether anyone is using a trademark in commerce. Also, if your web site is a substantial e-commerce site, I would suggest that you undertake state and common law trademarks searches, as well. While this may seem expensive to some, remember that it is a mere fraction of the costs of defending a trademark litigation.

continued

Just One Address

by Paul Shapiro (Capital PC Users Group)

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 at <http://net@address.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 upper-case and lower-case 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 that you have changed your address, forget what you have just read. You may, for example, want to make a big deal out 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.

Reprinted from *Monitor*, the Newsletter of the Capital PC Users Group (www.cpcug.org). ☐

Doing Business on the Net?

The Business News of NJ is holding an Internet Expo in Princeton NJ on March 30, 1999. Call (732) 246-5713 for details. The theme is to introduce businesses to the workings and pitfalls of doing business on the Internet.

From *The Business News of NJ*. ☐

Order TCF Tickets Now

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Order your TCF tickets from ACGNJ.

Ticket orders will be taken at ACGNJ meetings until April 20. To order a ticket, you must come to a meeting. Orders will be taken by Jo-Anne Head, Vice President of the ACGNJ (tinarock@aol.com) or by John Sheetz, Treasurer of the ACGNJ

Please pay by cash or check. Make check payable to ACGNJ. Each ticket is \$10.00.

Your tickets will be delivered to you before TCF, either by mail or in person at an ACGNJ meeting. When ordering, please specify whether you want your tickets mailed to you or whether you will pick them up at a meeting. ☐

Chocolate, *continued*

Determine if someone else already owns the domain name you want to use by using the WHOIS function. This function is available online <http://rs.internic.net/cgi-bin/whois>. Become familiar with the terms and conditions of Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI) Domain Dispute Resolution Policy. This policy, updated regularly, describes the policy of NSI (the company that controls InterNIC). By familiarizing yourself with the policy, you will know your rights and duties before you register your domain name.

If someone wishes to use a domain name that is already registered as a domain name or trademark, obtain a written license from the owner. Some owners will be willing to license the name upon certain terms and conditions (such as a disclaimer on the web site stating that you are not affiliated with the owner.) Again, paying a reasonable license fee is a lot less costly than defending a trademark infringement or dilution lawsuit.

Your best bet is to search the trademark registries and come up with your own unique and fanciful mark that will also serve as your domain name. The more fanciful the mark, the stronger your trademark. Then one day you'll be able to tell someone else to get your chocolate out of their peanut butter.

Douglas J. Katich is a partner at the Fair Haven, New Jersey law firm of Katich, Wersé & Petillo and practices regularly in the areas of computer and Internet law. He can be reached for comment or question at Doug@kwpatorneys.com. ☐

SIG News

PC User Group

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

March 19: We will demonstrate and discuss Winfax Pro version 9.0. Also we will raffle off two full copies of Winfax Pro to MEMBERS ONLY. I will also be handing out special Symantec coupons giving user group members a special price break (expires 4/29/99) on all their software. This version of Winfax lets you send and receive faxes using Windows98, Windows95 or WindowsNT, and it lets you use one copy of the program to share faxing capabilities across a network. ☐

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@injersey.com)

February: Attorney Douglas Katsich spoke and answered questions on copyright and trademark problems on the Internet for two hours. Those in attendance want to have him back., and he has consented to write for the Newsletter as well.

March: Connie D'Orville from Dragon Software on voice recognition. Connie has told us she will be bearing gifts — if you miss it, you'll miss out! ☐

VBA

Jim Ditaranto

VBA = Visual Basic for Applications

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

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

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

Random Access

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

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

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

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

This is an official “Newbies too” group. ☐

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

At our February 11 meeting, Norm Wiss demonstrated the program Active Get from Trading Techniques. Active Get is a technical analysis stock/commodity trading program that can use either real-time or end of day data. The program uses templates and is based on Elliot wave analysis. Norm uses the program with an end of day data. It will use either of MetaStock or AIG file formats.

Norm uses Telescan as his data provider, and actually downloads into both data formats on his machine. He showed us how he used the software to make several successful trades.

In addition to Advanced Get, Mr. Wiss uses MetaStock and AIG to analyse the market. These and a few other programs were also shown. We had to call time and end the meeting at a late hour, in spite of the fact that members were still interested in learning more. Overall, we learned how one of our more successful traders uses software and on-line services to increase his investment returns.

Our plans have not yet jelled for the March 11 meeting. I suggest that you check our web site (<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/>) periodically for the latest news. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. ☐

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 (UNIX, BSD, Coherent, AIX ...). 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. ☐

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

February 4: Elections were held and Marty Rosenblum was reelected head. Since John Raff is now head of PC Symposium, we prevailed on the loyalty of our old friend Alex Goldfinger to run for Vice-Head. Since the nominees ran unopposed, they were elected no contest! I reviewed the latest Web news - some of which can be found in this month's Internet Corner. Then John took over and finished up the presentation of home intranetworking he had started at the January meeting.

March 4: Since I'm in Florida, the meeting will be chaired by Alex, our new Vice-Head. In addition to Web news review, Alex will MC a presentation of the members favorite URLs. All attendees are urged to bring their two favorite URLs and be prepared to a few words about why they like them. ☐

continued

C++ User Group

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

Welcome to the February C++ Users Group. This month we have two completely different programs to discuss. One was originally created last year about this time called "Disk Free for Windows", a Visual C++ program that presents a bar graph on the top of the screen showing the space utilized on all disk drives. The second is a command line based program that runs under Windows 95/98 or under Windows NT. It can be used for troubleshooting your system when other programs fail to work. Here are the details.

We discussed "Disk Free for Windows" last February, and since then I have used it extensively on many different machines. However, by coincidence, they were always Windows NT computers, so I failed to realize that some people would like to use this on a "FAT32" system with large hard drives. Later in 1998, we worked on a program called "Disk Size for Windows" which included some algorithms for obtaining the disk specifications on a FAT32 system. It was a fairly simple operation to take the class developed for the FAT32 system and add it into the C++ code for the Disk Bar Chart program. In addition to that, several minor enhancements have been added which correctly position the window on the screen even if there are extra menus visible, such as the task bar. So we have a major change and a minor change. The major change enables use on Windows 98 and other FAT32 systems such as Windows 95. The minor change includes some better screen handling.

The second program, "FINDDLL", helps diagnose problems with missing DLL files on computer systems. The classic problem that occurs is that the user clicks on an icon for a program and a message appears that says "missing DLL". Unfortunately it usually doesn't say which DLL. There doesn't seem to be any easy way to figure it out. One thing that is known is that the name of the file is usually hard coded into the executable, so if we search the executable for any filename with the extension DLL we can come up with a list of possible candidates. Once we have the list, we can go through each name on the list and check if it exists on the computer. It is not necessary to search the entire computer.

There's a prescribed search-order anytime a program wants to locate a DLL. The program first looks in the current working directory. It next looks in each directory specified in the path. Many computers have paths that are hundreds of characters long that include dozens of directories. This is not a problem since we just go through them all one at a time. When the program finds a DLL, it lists the directory, the size and the date of the file. Occasionally the DLL appears in more than one directory. This can be a disaster if the program expects one version of a DLL and tries to use a different version.

This utility program demonstrates the use of some hard drive functions and in particular random access of the hard drive. It also includes functions that obtain the size and date of the various files.

You can get the source code and the executable programs from links on the C User Group home page (<http://www.blast.net/barnold>), or from the ACGNJ ftp server (<ftp://ftp.acgnj.org/pub/acgnj/cug/Csig9902.zip>). ☐

March 1999

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez

(cybertech72@bigfoot.com)

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

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

Jim Cimino (cominoj@bright-ideas.com)

Changes in meeting schedule and location! Those of you who have been coming regularly know that we used to hold our meetings on the Third Tuesday of the month at the offices of Corporate Software in Iselin. You also know that starting with the November meeting, we moved to the third Friday of the month at Hill Center, Busch Campus of Rutgers. The move was for a couple of reasons, one of which was that CS was going to relocate, and the day change was due to availability of the meeting room.

To say that attendance was poor would be an understatement, and since I have been told that CS is delaying their relocation, I have decided to change the meeting location and day back to the original. So, our meetings will be held 7 P.M. on the Third Tuesday at Corporate Software, 100 Wood Ave South, Suite 410, Iselin NJ. For directions, future meetings, or questions, please call (732)417-5778 ext. 5. Visit our home page (<http://www.njlnug.org>). ☐

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. ☐

Main Meeting

March 5, 1999: Bill Farrell hosts on Graphics and Autocad.

April 2, 1999: Bob Berto will present on "An Amateur's View of SAS"

May 7, 1999: Heyward Ehrlich on the topic of his choice, probably something on the Internet

June 4, 1999: Linux — it's not just for breakfast any more, by Peter Fillingham. Corporate America has started to wake up and take notice of the Linux operating system. ☐

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. ☐

E-Mail Hints

by Cathy Grammer-Margolin, North Orange County Computer Club (<http://www.noccc.org>)

Never use all capital letters in an e-mail — it is considered SHOUTING, which is rude.

If you are sending to lots of people, please use bcc: (blind carbon copy) for the list and send the To: to yourself. That way not everyone gets everyone else's e-mail address. Be considerate. An example is: To: *inventor00@pobox.com* bcc: all the people on my humor list to get a daily joke.

If sending on items like jokes which have been sent by many others with many other names in the message, *please* mark the area you want others to see, and copy it into a new e-mail message. Most people hate going through four pages of names to get to the joke/message.

Please include a meaningful title on the subject line. Most people hate getting one saying no subject and having to open the message (maybe days later) to find out it was really important.

Always include your name, as not all e-mail addresses are meaningful. Mine is *inventor00@pobox.com*, so I try to always include Cathy Grammer-Margolin, at the bottom of the message.

Always send the message as text instead of html (if possible) since many people cannot read it if it is in html format unless they cut and paste into another document then pull it up in their browser (and most people will not do this). AOL, with 14 million people, can only convert some parts of an html e-mail messages.

Unless you know that a person is retired with nothing to do except read e-mail, please be considerate with the volume of mail you pass on. With my joke list, I have daily readers and weekly readers (weekly being people who have too much e-mail and only want one to two a week). Sometimes people are shy about telling you to reduce the volume. Also to some people, reading e-mail is not a priority. Some may read it only once a month. So be aware of your audience.

If you use AOL, you might consider using BPS Softwares Power Tools as an address book to sort addresses, groups of people, etc. For a free trial version, Goto Keyword BPS.

Emoticons: According to Richard Hanson, an emoticon (also known as a "smiley") is a symbol composed of a few text characters, used as a kind of emotional shorthand to add meaning to a message. For example, an emoticon may be used at the end of a comment to indicate that the comment was not intended to be taken seriously. Most emoticons are designed to be interpreted with the viewer's head tilted to the left. From: <http://www.utopiasw.demon.co.uk/emoticon.htm> (this site has a list of the more common ones.)

E-mail acronyms (such as BTW, for "by the way") can be found at: <http://www.utopiasw.demon.co.uk/acronyms.htm> ☐

Looking for a Job?

(<http://www.news.com/Dispatch/Ads/cnetjobs.html?dd.cn.tx.go>) Don't pound the pavement in search of gainful employment. Let your free Personal Job Search Agent do the work! Simply enter your title, salary, industry, and other preferences in CNET's Career Center, and they will email you awesome job leads. The service is completely confidential. A higher salary could be just around the corner.

Hey, software engineering and technology executives! Do you want to work for a company on the forefront of the digital world, implementing the latest technologies? CNET is looking for executive-level candidates for its San Francisco offices. For more information, follow these links:

<http://www.cnet.com/Digdispatch/299.html> (Vice President, content technology)

<http://www.cnet.com/Digdispatch/dispatch230.html> (Director of software engineering)

Submitted by Bill Farrell ☐

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@junio.com)	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, http://www.ppcug-nj.org
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

ACGNJ Hotline

(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

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

(732) 247-2273 New Brunswick
 (732) 297-2211 * Franklin Park
 (732) 752-9285 Dunellen

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

Other Bulletin Boards

(215) 432-5699 Bill Earnest
 (732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

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

Radio and TV Programs

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

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

Software Review TLC Sat. 10 p.m.

CNet, Schedule on page 4.

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

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

Free Help Line

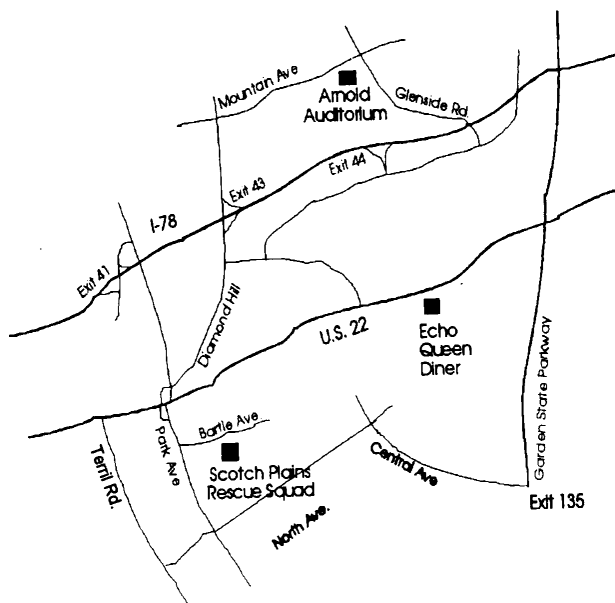
Dell Computer: Sundays 1-4 P.M. (800) 677-0874. Call with your questions.

KGP Computer Shows

(More at <http://www.pcshow.com>)

March 13-14: NJ National Guard Armory, Morristown, NJ. Free admission and parking!

Mar. 20-21: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, New Jersey



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

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

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

From Southern New Jersey

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

From I-78 (either direction)

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

From US 22 Westbound

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

From Western New Jersey

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

ACGNJ NEWS

**AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY,
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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, March 1, 1999

8 P.M. - Lunics (Linux/Unix). Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.
Newsletter Deadline. See page 2 for instructions.

Tuesday, March 2

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Friday, March 5

8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

Monday, March 8

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

Wednesday, March 10

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

Thursday, March 11

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 201-740-2489.

Friday, March 12

8 P.M. - Symposium. Dragon Systems on voice recognition software. John Raff, 973-533-0664

Tuesday, March 16

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

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

Wednesday, March 17

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

Friday, March 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, March 22

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

Thursday, March 25

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

Friday, March 26

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

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

Tuesday, March 30

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 1

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Newsletter Deadline. See page 2 for instructions.

Friday, April 2

8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

Monday, April 5

8 P.M. - Lunics (Linux/Unix). Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.

Wednesday, April 7

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

Thursday, April 8

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 201-740-2489.

Friday, April 9

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

Monday, April 12

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

Wednesday, April 14

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

Friday, April 16

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.

Tuesday, April 20

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

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.